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街亭の戦い

横山光輝

希望コミックス 160

SANGOKUSHI

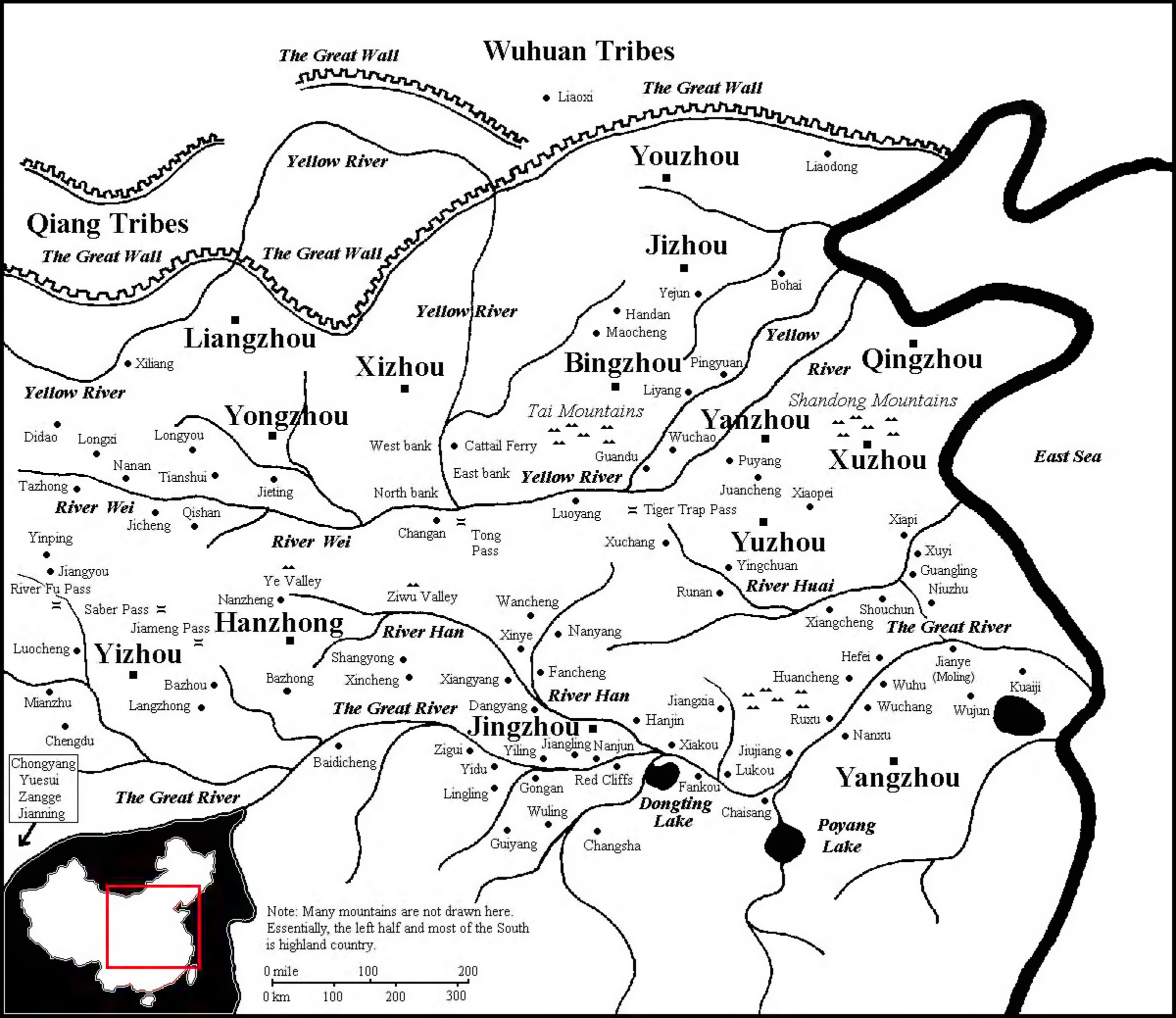
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BATTLE OF JIETING



YOKOYAMA MITSUTERU

MA SU YOUCHANG


Wuhuan Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Liaoxi
Youzhou
Liaodong
Yellow River
Qiang Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Jizhou
Bohai
Yejun
Handan
Maocheng
Yellow River
Liangzhou
Xizhou
Bingzhou
Pingyuan
Yellow River
Qingzhou
Xiliang
Yellow River
Liyang
Shandong Mountains
Tai Mountains
Yongzhou
Yanzhou
Didao
Longxi
Longyou
West bank
Cattail Ferry
Wuchao
Guandu
Xuzhou
East Sea
Nanan
East bank
Yellow River
Puyang
Tianshui
Tazhong
Jieting
North bank
Juancheng
Xiaopei
River Wei
Qishan
Luoyang
Tiger Trap Pass
Jicheng
Changan
Tong Pass
Xiapi
Yuzhou
Yinping
River Wei
Xuchang
Xuyi
Jiangyou
Ye Valley
Yingchuan
Guangling
River Fu Pass
Ziwu Valley
Runan
River Huai
Niuzhu
Saber Pass
Nanzheng
Wancheng
Shouchun
Jiameng Pass
Hanzhong
River Han
Xinye
Nanyang
Xiangcheng
The Great River
Luocheng
Yizhou
Shangyong
Hefei
Jianye (Moling)
Fancheng
Huancheng
Bazhou
Bazhong
Xincheng
Xiangyang
Wuhu
Kuaiji
River Han
Jiangxia
Mianzhu
Langzhong
The Great River
Dangyang
Wuchang
Wujun
Ruxu
Hanjin
Jingzhou
Chengdu
Nanxu
Zigui
Yiling
Jiangling
Nanjun
Xiakou
Jiujiang
Baidicheng
Yidu
Lukou
Yangzhou
Chongyang
Yuesui
Zangge
Jianning
Red Cliffs
Fankou
Gongan
Lingling
Dongting Lake
Chaisang
Wuling
Poyang Lake
Guiyang
Changsha
The Great River
Note: Many mountains are not drawn here.
Essentially, the left half and most of the South
is highland country.
0 mile 100 200
0 km 100 200 300

MAJOR CHARACTERS OF SANGOKUSHI



CAI MAO:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU BIAO, WHO BECAME THE SUPREME ADMIRAL OF WEI'S NAVY WHEN JINGZHOU SURRENDERED TO CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 25, HE IS FRAMED BY ZHOU YU'S PLOT AND THUS EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.



CAO CAO MENGDE:
THE AMBITIOUS AND MACHIAVELLIAN HERO OF SANGOKUSHI. RISES TO BECOME KING OF WEI BUT DECLINES TO BECOME EMPEROR HIMSELF. PASSES AWAY FROM ILLNESS IN VOLUME 42.



CAO HONG:
YOUNGER COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL.



CAO PI:
CAO CAO'S ELDEST SON WHO SUCCEEDS TO KING OF WEI AND DETHRONES LAST HAN EMPEROR TO BECOME THE FIRST WEI EMPEROR. HE PASSES AWAY DUE TO ILLNESS IN VOLUME 49.



CAO RUI:
ELDEST SON OF CAO PI. SUCCEEDS AFTER HIS FATHER TO BECOME THE SECOND WEI EMPEROR.



CAO REN:
COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL. PORTRAYED AS BRAVE BUT HOT-TEMPERED IN THE STORY.



CHENG GONG:
A CITY GUARD CAPTAIN WHO ARRESTED CAO CAO, ONLY TO FREE AND ESCAPE WITH HIM AFTER SYMPATHIZING WITH HIS STORY. HOWEVER, HE LATER DEFECTS TO LU BU AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR. IN VOLUME 14, HE IS EXECUTED ALONG WITH LU BU.



CHENG YU:
IMPORTANT AND LOYAL STRATEGIST SERVING CAO CAO.



CHEN DENG:
THE SON OF CHEN GUI AND FORMERLY TAO QIAN OF XUZHOU'S SUBORDINATE. HE AND HIS FATHER SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL.



CHEN GUI:
FATHER OF CHEN DENG WHO SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL. DESPITE SECRETLY WORKING TOGETHER WITH LIU BEI AGAINST CAO CAO, CAO CAO SPARES HIS LIFE AND ALLOWS HIM TO CONTINUE LIVING IN XUZHOU.



DIAN WEI:
CAO CAO'S PERSONAL BODYGUARD, RENOWNED FOR HIS STRENGTH. HE IS ALSO KNOWN BY THE NICKNAME, "E LAI," IN REFERENCE TO THE GENERAL OF THE SAME NAME WHO SERVED UNDER KING ZHOU OF SHANG. IN VOLUME 12, HE WAS KILLED DURING ZHANG XIU'S PLOT TO KILL CAO CAO.



DIAO CHAN:
A MAID TO WANG YUN, WHO RAISED HER AS HIS OWN DAUGHTER. SHE AND WANG YUN PLOTTED TO DISTANCE LU BU FROM DONG ZHUO BY HAVING HER SEDUCE BOTH MEN. IN VOLUME 8, SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER ACCOMPLISHING HER GOAL.



DONG CHENG:
ELDER STATESMAN OF HAN WHO IS EMPEROR XIAN'S CONFIDANT. EMPEROR XIAN SECRETELY ASKS HIM TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO, WHO NOW RULES THE IMPERIAL COURT AS CHANCELLOR. IN VOLUME 17, HE IS EXECUTED AFTER HIS ASSASSINATION PLOT IS FOUND OUT BY CAO CAO.



DONG ZHUO:
GOVERNOR OF LIANGZHOU WHO LATER SEIZED CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND SEATED HIMSELF AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, BECOMING AN INFAMOUS TYRANT. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, LU BU.



EMPRESS HE:
ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HER BEAUTY WAS NOTICED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS AND SHE ROSE TO BECOME THE EMPRESS, UTILIZING RUTHLESS MEANS. HOWEVER, SHE AND HER SON WERE REMOVED FROM POWER AND KILLED BY DONG ZHUO WHEN HE CAME TO POWER.



FA ZHENG:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG, BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI DURING HIS CONQUEST OF SHU. HE IS ONE OF LIU BEI'S KEY STRATEGISTS.



GAN NING:
FORMER-PIRATE WHO IS NOW A FIRECE GENERAL OF WU.



GONGSUN ZAN:
GOVERNOR OF BEIPING, WHO WAGES WAR AGAINST YUAN SHAO FOR KILLING HIS YOUNG BROTHER. IN VOLUME 15, YUAN SHAO'S ARMY CONQUERS BEIPING, CAUSING GONGSUN ZAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE.



GUAN PING:
GUAN YU'S ADOPTED SON AS OF VOLUME 19. SERVES ALONGSIDE HIS FATHER UNTIL THEIR DEATH IN VOLUME 42.



GUAN XING:
GUAN YU'S SECOND SON, WHO BECOMES A PROMINENT SHU OFFICER AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH.



GUAN YU YUNCHANG:
SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER TO LIU BEI AND SWORN OLDER BROTHER TO ZHANG FEI. AFTER THE FAILED SIEGE ON FANCHENG, HE IS EVENTUALLY CAUGHT BY WU FORCES AND PROMPTLY EXECUTED IN VOLUME 42.



GUO JIA:
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO CAO CAO. HE DIES FROM ILLNESS DURING CAO CAO'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE YUAN FAMILY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).



HE JIN:
ORIGINALLY A SIMPLE BUTCHER, HE BECAME A GENERAL WHEN HIS YOUNGER SISTER ROSE TO BECOME EMPRESS HE. HE IS KILLED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS DURING THEIR POWER STRUGGLE IN VOLUME 3.



HUANG GAI:
LOYAL GENERAL OF WU, WHOSE FAMILY HAS SERVED THE SUN FAMILY FOR THREE GENERATIONS.



HUANG ZHONG:
AN ELDERLY WARRIOR GENERAL RENOWNED ESPECIALLY FOR HIS SKILL WITH THE BOW. FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT DEFECTS TO LIU BEI IN VOLUME 28. FALLS IN BATTLE AGAINST WU FORCES IN VOLUME 43.



HUA XIN:
WEI MINISTER WHO RISES TO BECOME CHANCELLOR OF WEI UNDER CAO PI'S REIGN.



JIANG QIN:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH ZHOU TAI, BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR SUN CE'S FATHER, SUN JIAN.



JIANG WEI:
NATIVE OF JICHENG AND FAMED FOR BOTH HIS MENTAL AND MARTIAL PROWESS. ORIGINALLY SERVED WEI, BUT DEFECTED TO SHU IN VOLUME 51 AFTER KONGMING'S PLAN TURNED HIS WEI ALLIES AGAINST HIM.



JIA XU:
FORMER STRATEGIST OF ZHANG XIU, WHO PLOTTED A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON CAO CAO, WHICH LEFT DIAN WEI DEAD. AS OF VOLUME 16, HE HAS DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR.



LI DIAN:
SCHOLARLY GENERAL UNDER THE SERVICE OF CAO CAO.



LI RU:
CUNNING ADVISOR TO DONG ZHUO. WITH HIS ADVICE, DONG ZHUO FIRMLY SECURES HIS SEAT AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS KILLED ALONG WITH DONG ZHUO WHEN LU BU BETRAYS THEM.

LIU BIAO:
THE GOVERNOR OF JINGZHOU. HE PASSES AWAY DUE TO SICKNESS IN VOLUME 22 AND THE CONSEQUENT SUCCESSION CRISIS ALLOWS CAO CAO TO TAKE OVER JINGZHOU.



LIU BEI XUANDE:
THE CENTRAL CHARACTER OF SANGOKUSHI. A VIRTUOUS MAN, WHO CLAIMS DESCENT FROM EMPEROR JING OF HAN. HE HAS SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI. HE BECOMES AN EMPEROR AND ESTABLISHES A SUCCESOR-DYNASTY TO HAN IN VOLUME 43.



LIU FENG:
LIU BEI'S ADOPTED SON. ORIGINALLY THE NEPHEW OF LIU MI, HE WAS ADOPTED UPON FIRST SIGHT BY LIU BEI WHO TOOK A LIKING TO HIM IN VOLUME 21. HE IS UNFORTUNATELY EXECUTED BY LIU BEI IN VOLUME 43 AFTER DENYING AID TO GUAN YU.



LIU QI:
ELDEST SON OF LIU BIAO WHO TEMPORARILY LOSES HIS INHERITANCE OF JINGZHOU DUE TO CAI MAO'S PLOT. IN VOLUME 29, HE PASSES AWAY FROM ILLNESS AND THE RIGHTFUL OWNERSHIP OF JINGZHOU CONTINUES TO BE DEBATED BETWEEN SUN QUAN AND LIU BEI.



LIU ZHANG:
INCOMPETENT RULER OF SHU (ALTERNATIVE NAME FOR YIZHOU). HE SEEKS LIU BEI'S HELP TO FEND OFF ZHANG LU, BUT RELATIONS SOON SOUR AND LIU BEI USURPS HIS RULE OVER SHU. AS OF VOLUME 35, HE IS EXILED TO JINGZHOU.



LU BU:
ALTHOUGH REPUTED TO BE THE STRONGEST WARRIOR, HE IS HOT-HEADED AND RARELY HEEDS WISE ADVICE. IN VOLUME 14, HE WAS BETRAYED BY HIS SUBORDINATES, AND EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.



LU MENG:
FIRECE WU GENERAL, WHO AT LAST CONQUERS JINGZHOU FOR SUN QUAN, CAPTURING GUAN YU IN DOING SO. UNFORTUNATELY DIES TO A SUDDEN ILLNESS AFTER GUAN YU'S EXECUTION IN VOLUME 42, CAUSING SOME TO THINK HE WAS CURSED.



LU SU:
IMPORTANT MILITARY GENERAL AND ADVISOR OF WU.



LU XUN:
TALENTED WU OFFICIAL WHO QUICKLY RISES TO FAVOUR AFTER SUCCESSFULLY PLANNING THE CONQUEST OF JINGZHOU.



MA CHAO:
ONE OF THE FIVE TIGER GENERALS OF SHU, WHO ONCE SOUGHT TO AVENGE HIS FATHER'S DEATH AT CAO CAO'S HANDS BEFORE ENTERING LIU BEI'S SERVICE IN VOLUME 35. HE PASSES AWAY DUE TO ILLNESS IN VOLUME 49.



MA DAI:
A NEPHEW OF MA CHAO WHO ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE ALONGSIDE HIS UNCLE.



MA LIANG:
AN ADVISOR TO LIU BEI. HE IS THE FOURTH YOUNGEST OF THE FIVE MA BROTHERS, AND IS NOTED FOR HIS INTELLECT AND WHITE EYEBROWS. HE PASSES AWAY DUE TO ILLNESS IN VOLUME 46.



MA SU:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF MA LIANG, WHO, UPON REPORTING THE PASSING OF MA LIANG, CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF KONGMING AND ASSISTED THE SOUTHERN CAMPAIGNS. HE HAS SINCE BECOME AN IMPORTANT STRATEGIST OF SHU.



MA TENG:
GOVERNOR OF XILIANG AND FATHER OF MA CHAO, WHO SIGNED THE BLOOD-PLEDGE TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 30, HE IS EXECUTED FOR A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT OF CAO CAO.



MENG DA:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG WHO DEFECTS TO LIU BEI, ALONG WITH HIS GOOD FRIENDS ZHANG SONG AND FA ZHENG. HE LATER DEFECTS TO WEI IN VOLUME 43, AFTER REALIZING HE WOULD BE KILLED IN SHU TO BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR GUAN YU'S DEATH.



MENG HUO:
KING OF THE NANMAN TRIBES, WHO UNSUCCESSFULLY SUPPORTED A REVOLT IN SOUTHERN SHU. KONGMING'S SOUTHERN CAMPAIGNS WERE LAUNCHED IN RETALIATION. AFTER BEING CAPTURED AND RELEASED 7 TIMES, HE SURRENDERS AND BECOMES A LOYAL SUBJECT TO SHU.



MI ZHU:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS.



PANG DE:
FIERCE GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED MA TENG AND THEN MA CHAO. IN VOLUME 36, HE DEFECTS TO CAO CAO'S SERVICE DUE TO A TROUBLED RELATIONSHIP WITH ZHANG LU, THE LORD OF HANZHONG. PERISHES IN THE BATTLE OF FANCHENG AGAINST GUAN YU IN VOLUME 41.



PANG TONG SHIYUAN:
NICKNAMED THE YOUNG PHOENIX (FENGCHU), HE IS A MASTERFUL STRATEGIST SAID TO BE ZHUGE LIANG'S EQUAL. AFTER ENTERING LIU BEI'S SERVICE, HE TRAGICALLY MET AN EARLY DEATH IN SHU WHEN AMBUSHED BY ZHANG REN IN VOLUME 34.



SIMA YI ZHONGDA:
IMPORTANT MILITARY STRATEGIST OF WEI SINCE CAO CAO'S REIGN. UPON CAO RUI'S SUCCESSION TO THE WEI THRONE, HE WAS BRIEFLY FRAMED FOR TREASON BY ZHUGE LIANG, BUT WAS RESTORED TO POWER IN LIGHT OF THE GROWING CRISIS OF ZHUGE LIANG'S NORTHERN CAMPAIGN AGAINST WEI.



SHUI JING:
HIS REAL NAME IS SIMA HUI BUT HE IS MORE COMMONLY KNOWN BY HIS TAOIST NAME, SHUI JING (MEANING WATER MIRROR). HE IS THE TEACHER OF ZHUGE LIANG, PANG TONG, AND XU SHU.



SUN CE:
ELDEST SON OF SUN JIAN, WHO TURNS THE SUN FAMILY'S FORTUNE AROUND WITH HIS CONQUEST OF THE SOUTH-LANDS. IN VOLUME 19, A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND CONFLICT WITH YU JI CAUSES HIS BODY AND MENTAL HEALTH TO WEAKEN. HE SUCCUMBS TO DEATH SHORTLY AFTER.



SUN JIAN:
THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO. HOWEVER, HIS ALLIES LIU BIAO AND YUAN SHAO TO TURN ON HIM WHEN HE TRIES TO KEEP THE IMPERIAL SEAL FOR HIMSELF. IN VOLUME 7, HE IS KILLED IN BATTLE AGAINST YUAN SHAO.



SUN QIAN:
TRUSTED ADVISOR TO LIU BEI. (HIS ROLE IS MUCH SMALLER IN SANGOKUSHI COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL NOVEL.)



SUN QUAN:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF SUN CE AND THE CURRENT RULER OF WU, THE SOUTHLANDS OF CHINA.



TAISHI CI:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU YAO BUT DEFECTED TO SUN CE IN VOLUME 11. DURING THE BATTLE OF HEFEI (VOL. 29), HE FALLS PREY TO ZHANG LIAO'S PLAN AND IS KILLED IN BATTLE.



TAO QIAN:
THE KIND GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU WHO ACCIDENTALLY INVOKES CAO CAO'S WRATH WHEN HIS DISLOYAL SUBORDINATE ZHANG KAI KILLS CAO CAO'S FATHER, CAO SONG. UPON HIS DEATH, HE BEQUEATHS XUZHOU TO LIU BEI.



THE TEN ATTENDANTS:
A CORRUPT GROUP OF 10 EUNUCHS WHO WERE THE HIGHEST RANKING MINISTERS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT. THEY WERE KILLED DURING THE POWER STRUGGLE WITH HE JIN IN VOLUME 4.



WANG YUN:
THE MINISTER OF THE MASSES, ONE OF THE 3 HIGHEST RANKING POSTS IN THE IMPERIAL COURT. HE SUCCESSFULLY PLOTS DONG ZHUO'S DOWNFALL USING DIAO CHAN IN VOLUME 8. HOWEVER, HE IS LATER KILLED BY REMNANTS OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).



WEI YAN:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT HAS DEFECTED TO LIU BEI ALONG WITH HUANG ZHONG IN VOLUME 28.



WEN CHOU:
HE AND YANG LIANG ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 18, HE IS AMBUSHED BY CAO CAO'S ARMY AND KILLED BY GUAN YU.



XIAHOU DUN:
TRUSTED GENERAL OF CAO CAO. HE LOST HIS LEFT EYE DURING A BATTLE AGAINST LU BU'S ARMY IN VOLUME 13.



XU CHU:
TRUSTED BODYGUARD OF CAO CAO. ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HE WAS RECRUITED BY CAO CAO WHO WAS IMPRESSED AFTER SEEING XU CHU'S DUEL WITH DIAN WEI.



XU SHU (SHAN FU):
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST WHO STUDIED UNDER SHUI JING. AFTER A BRIEF STINT OF SERVICE TO LIU BEI, HE IS TRICKED INTO COMING TO XUCHANG AND SERVING CAO CAO (VOLUME 21).



XUN YU:
TALENTED ADVISOR TO CA CAO.



XU HUANG:
CALM AND COLLECTED GENERAL UNDER SERVICE TO CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.



YAN LIANG:
HE AND WEN CHOU ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 17, HE WAS KILLED BY GUAN YU WHILE FIGHTING CAO CAO'S ARMY AT BAIMA.



YAN YAN:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU ZHANG BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI AFTER HIS CAPTURE AT ZHANG FEI'S HANDS IN VOLUME 34. HE IS NOTED FOR HIS ENERGY DESPITE HIS OLD AGE.



YU JIN:
GENERAL SERVING CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.



YUAN SHAO:
OLDER BROTHER OF YUAN SHU AND THE GOVERNOR OF JIZHOU. AFTER MANY YEARS OF WARRING AGAINST CAO CAO FOR CONTROL OF NORTHERN CHINA, HE AND HIS FAMILY ARE DEFEATED.



YUAN SHU:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF YUAN SHAO AND THE GOVERNOR OF NANYANG. AFTER RECEIVING THE IMPERIAL SEAL FROM SUN CE, HE DECLARES HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR OF ZHONG DYNASTY. IN VOLUME 15, HE DIES OF THIRST AFTER BEING ON THE RUN FROM LIU BEI AND CAO CAO'S ARMIES.



ZHANG BAO:
ELDEST SON OF ZHANG FEI, WHO RISES TO PROMINENCE AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER.



ZHANG FEI YIDE:
A FIRECE, SHORT-TEMPERED WARRIOR WHO IS THE SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER OF LIU BEI AND GUAN YU. HIS TEMPER EVENTUALLY GETS THE BETTER OF HIM, WHEN HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS SUBORDINATES IN VOLUME 43.



ZHANG LIAO:
ONE OF CAO CAO'S TOP GENERALS. HE WAS FORMERLY LU BU'S SUBORDINATE BUT DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AFTER THE FORMER'S EXECUTION.



ZHANG LU:
THE LEADER OF THE CELESTIAL MASTERS TAOIST MOVEMENT, AND THE RULER OF HANZHONG. IN VOLUME 36, CAO CAO CONQUERS HANZHONG BUT SPARES ZHANG LU.



ZHANG REN:
ONE OF SHU'S MOST CAPABLE GENERALS WHO PLANNED THE AMBUSH THAT KILLED PANG TONG. HE REFUSED TO SERVE LIU BEI UNLIKE MANY OF HIS COMRADES AND WAS THUS EXECUTED WHEN FINALLY CAPTURED AT THE HANDS OF ZHUGE LIANG (VOLUME 35).



ZHANG SONG:
AN ADVISOR TO LIU ZHANG WHO, UPON FAILING TO MAKE AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN CAO CAO AND LIU ZHANG, SOUGHT LIU BEI'S SUPPORT AND SWITCHED HIS ALLEGIANCE. IN VOLUME 34, HE IS EXECUTED WHEN HIS BROTHER REPORTS HIS BETRAYAL TO LIU ZHANG.



ZHANG XIU:
LORD OF WANCHENG WHO ATTEMPTED TO KILL CAO CAO DURING THE BATTLE OF WANCHENG IN VOLUME 12. AFTER YEARS OF CONFLICT AGAINST CAO CAO, HE FINALLY DECIDES TO DEFECT TO CAO CAO IN VOLUME 16.



ZHAO YUN ZILONG:
A FORMER SUBJECT OF YUAN SHAO BUT LATER DEFECTED TO SERVE GONGSUN ZAN. AFTER GONGSUN ZAN'S DEATH, HE BECOMES ONE OF LIU BEI'S MOST TRUSTED GENERALS.



ZHOU TAI:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH JIANG QIN BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN.



ZHANG ZHAO:
ELDER STATESMAN AND SUN QUAN'S TRUSTED ADVISOR. HE ORIGINALLY ENTERED SUN CE'S SERVICE ALONG WITH ZHANG HONG, WITH WHOM HE WAS REFERRED TO AS THE "TWO ZHANGS."



ZHOU CANG:
FORMERLY A YELLOW TURBAN, HE MEETS GUAN YU IN VOLUME 18 AND BECOMES HIS SUBORDINATE. COMMITS SUICIDE AFTER LEARNING GUAN YU WAS EXECUTED IN VOLUME 42.



ZHOU YU GONGJIN:
SWORN BROTHER OF SUN CE, AND ONE OF WU'S TOP MINDS, SERVING AS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DURING THE BATTLE OF THE RED CLIFFS. HE RECEIVES A CRITICAL ARROW-WOUND DURING HIS NANJUN CAMPAIGN (VOL. 27) WHICH HE NEVER FULLY RECOVERS FROM, LEADING TO HIS TRAGIC EARLY DEATH IN VOLUME 30.



ZHUGE LIANG KONGMING:
MASTERFUL STRATEGIST AND FORMER STUDENT OF SHUI JING. IN VOLUME 21, HE YIELDS TO LIU BEI'S PERSISTENCE AND DECIDES TO BECOME HIS SUBJECT.

SANGOKUSHI (ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS)

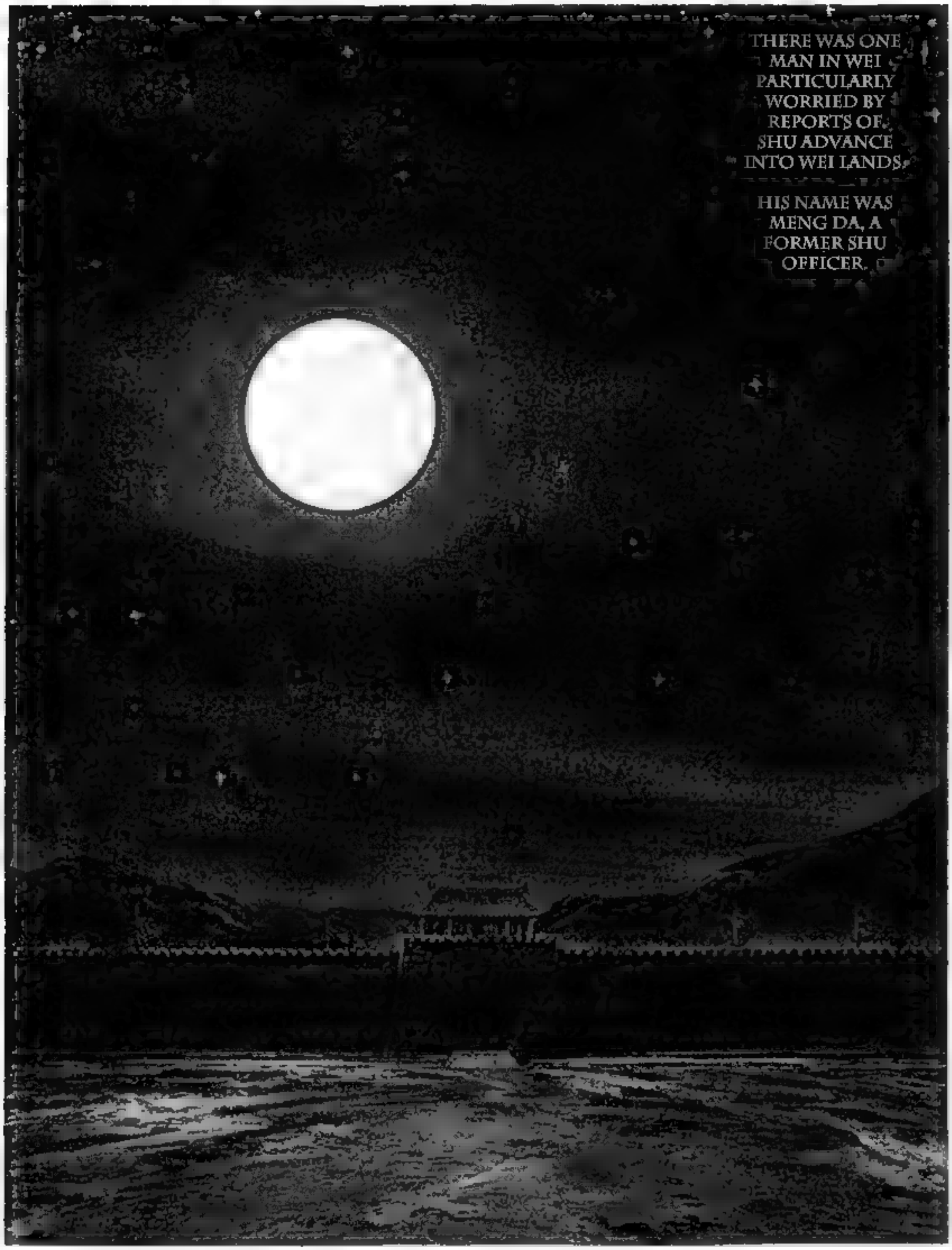
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（月刊『コミックトム』掲載）

MENG DA'S REBELLION


THERE WAS ONE MAN IN WEI PARTICULARLY WORRIED BY REPORTS OF SHU ADVANCE INTO WEI LANDS.
HIS NAME WAS MENG DA, A FORMER SHU OFFICER.

WHEN GUAN YU WAS SURROUNDED BY WU FORCES AT MAICHENG, MENG DA REFUSED TO SEND REINFORCEMENTS AND COMPROMISE HIS POSITION

UPON GUAN YU'S DEATH, LIU BEI SOUGHT TO PUNISH THOSE RESPONSIBLE, CAUSING MENG DA TO DEFECT TO WEI

THE FORMER EMPEROR CAO PI VALUED MENG DA'S TALENTS AND APPOINTED HIM TO THE GOVERNOR OF XINCHENG AND COMMANDER OF SHANGYONG AND JINCHENG AS SUCH, HE WAS ONE OF THE LEADING GENERALS RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURING WEI'S SOUTHWESTERN FRONTIER.

YES, THANK YOU FOR COMING, SHEN YI AND SHEN DAN.

DID YOU CALL FOR US, GENERAL?

WHICH IS...?

I WISH TO DISCUSS A MATTER OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE

YES.

AS YOU MAY HAVE HEARD, KONGMING IS LEADING THE SHU ARMY DEEPER INTO WEI LANDS DAY BY DAY.

IT MAY NOT BE LONG BEFORE HE REACHES CHANG'AN, AND IF CHANG'AN IS CAPTURED, WHO'S TO SAY EVEN THE CAPITAL LUOYANG WON'T FALL?

FIRST, HE TOYED AROUND WITH XIAHOU MAO, AND THEN HE DROVE CAO ZHEN AWAY FROM THE WEI RIVER. WITH TIANSHUI, NANAN, AND ANDING COMMANDERIES ALL SECURE, THE SHU ARMY BECOMES EVER MORE LIKE A TSUNAMI.

ALTHOUGH THE FORMER WEI EMPEROR TREATED US WELL AND APPOINTED US AS GOVERNORS, THE NEW EMPEROR THINKS OF US AS FOREIGNERS FROM SHU, UNABLE TO BE TRUSTED.

THE THREE OF US ARE ORIGINALLY MEN OF SHU. IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE TRAGIC INCIDENT OF GUAN YU'S DEATH, WE WOULD BE FIGHTING IN THAT SHU ARMY RIGHT NOW.

THUS, I HAVE DECIDED TO BECOME A MAN OF SHU ONCE MORE.

WHAT!?

I WILL LEAD THE TROOPS OF XINCHENG, JINCHENG, AND SHANGYONG TO ATTACK LUOYANG.

M... MEANING ...?

I...
I SEE...

THUS, WHILE KONGMING MARCHES FOR CHANG'AN, WE WILL MARCH FOR LUOYANG. IF THESE TWO CITIES ARE CAPTURED, THEN ALL OF WEI WILL FALL INTO SHU HANDS, A FEAT WHICH WE CAN CLAIM DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR.

Y-YES, SIR!

DO YOU TWO HAVE THE SAME RESOLVE?

YES, SIR.

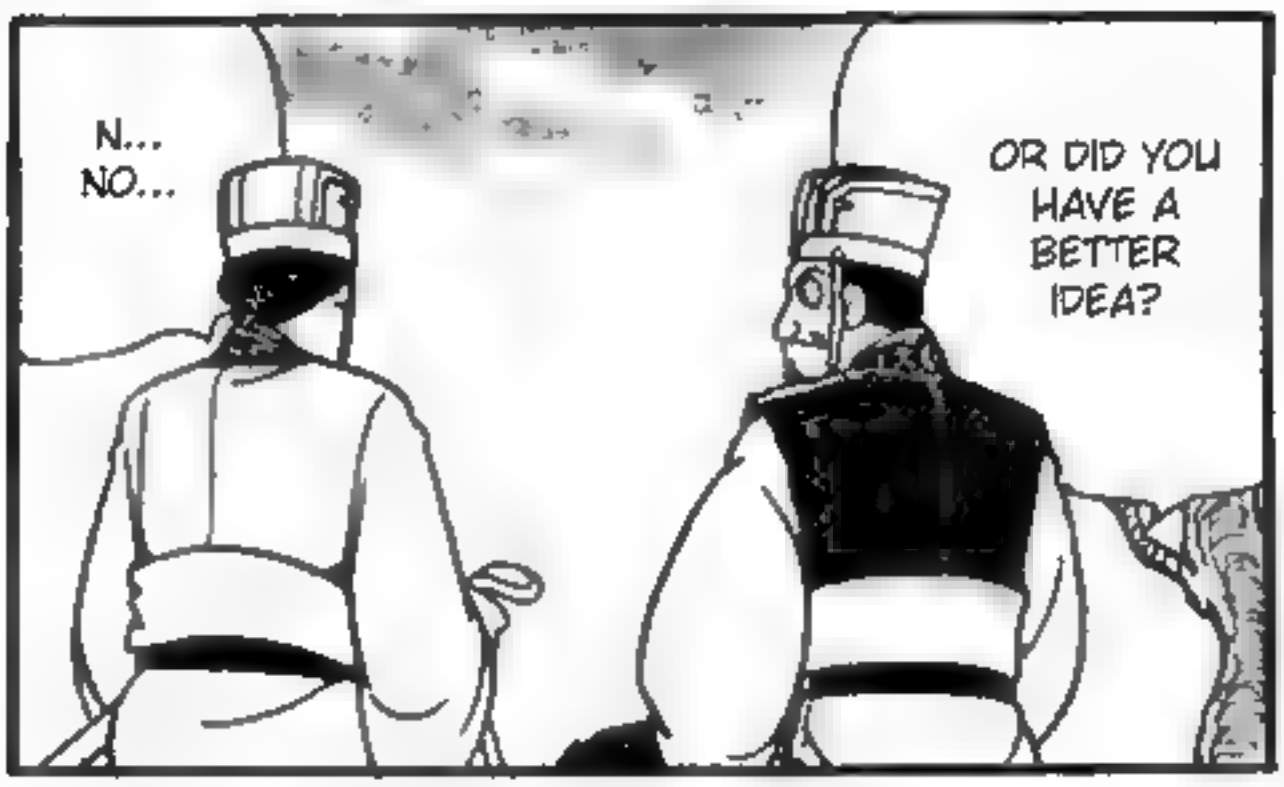
THEN PREPARE AT ONCE!

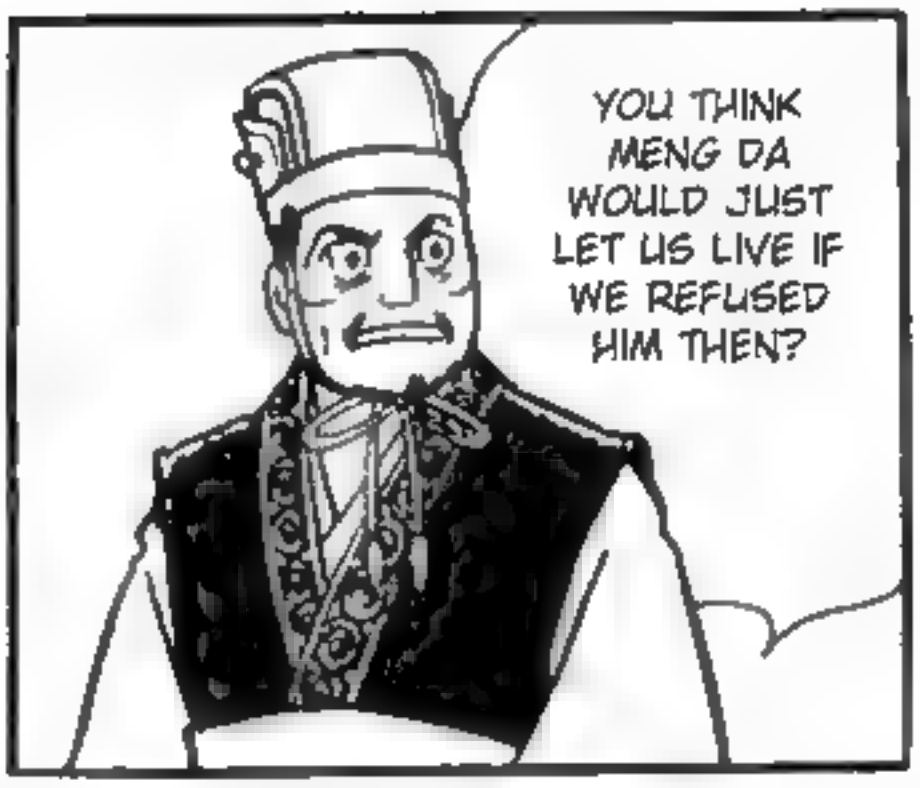
WELL... IT'S TRUE THAT THE CURRENT EMPEROR AND MANY INFLUENTIAL MINISTERS TREAT US COLDLY RIGHT NOW. STILL... WE WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE BEEN MADE GOVERNORS OF JINCHENG AND SHANYONG SINCE COMING TO WEI.

BROTHER DAN, WHAT DO YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT THIS REBELLION?

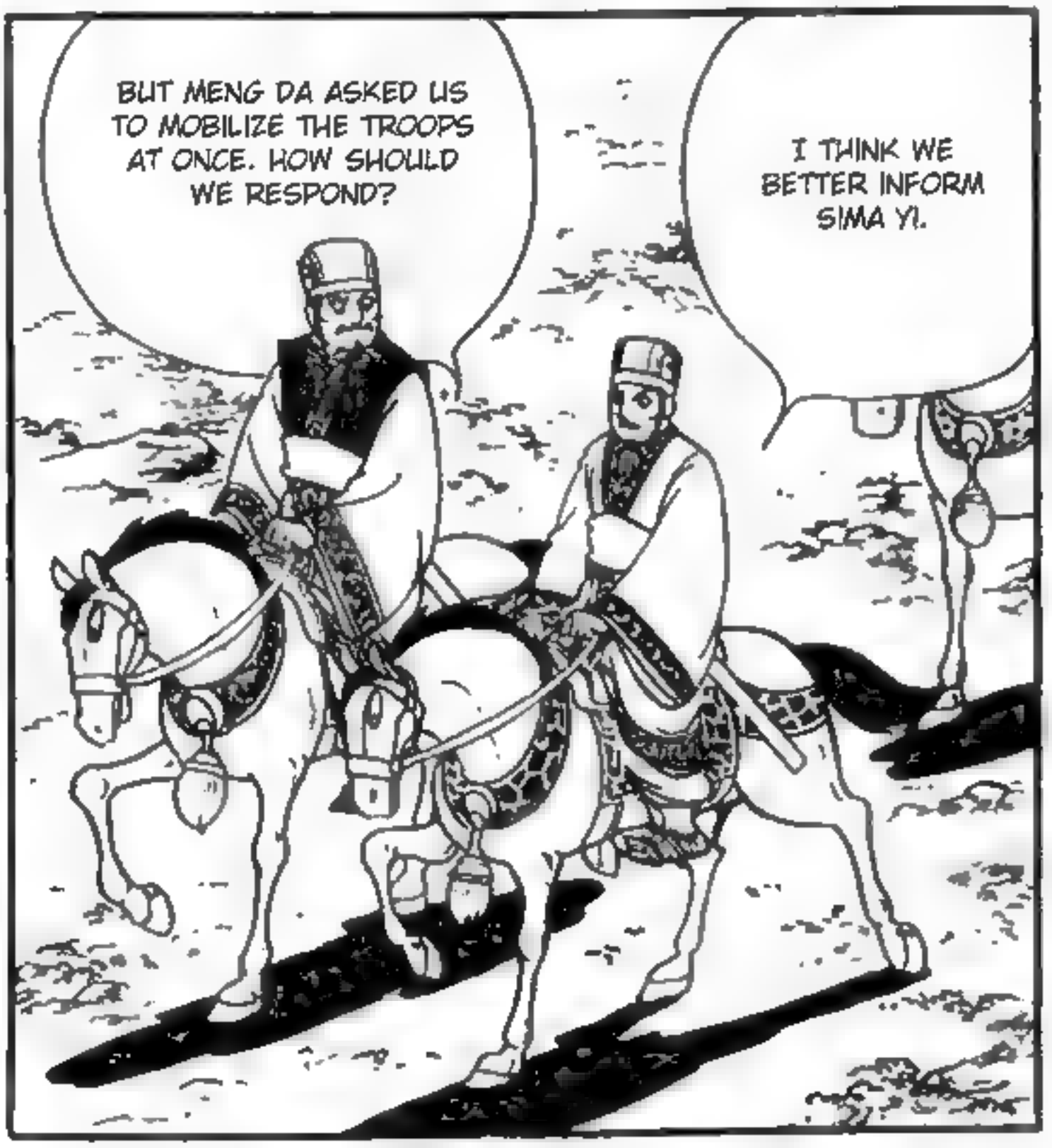
THEN WHY DID YOU AGREE TO GO ALONG WITH THE PLAN?

I... I DO NOT WISH TO BETRAY THE KINDNESS I'VE RECIEVED.

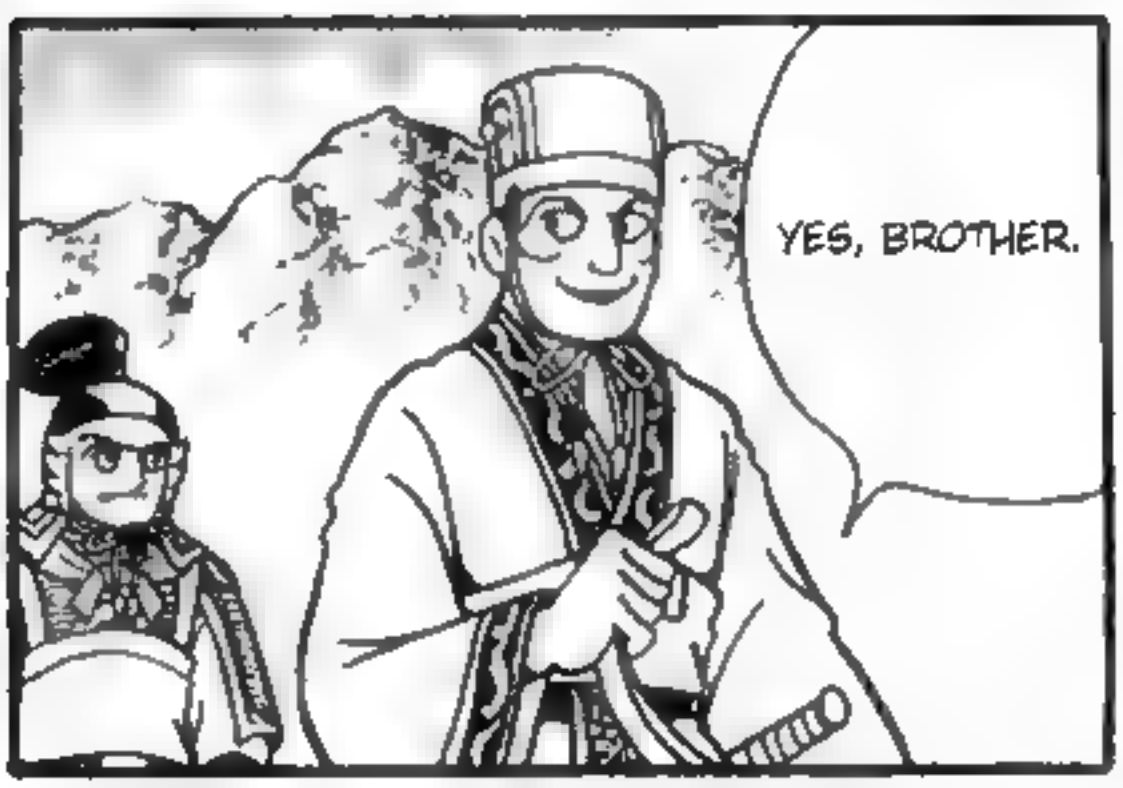

N...
NO...
OR DID YOU HAVE A BETTER IDEA?

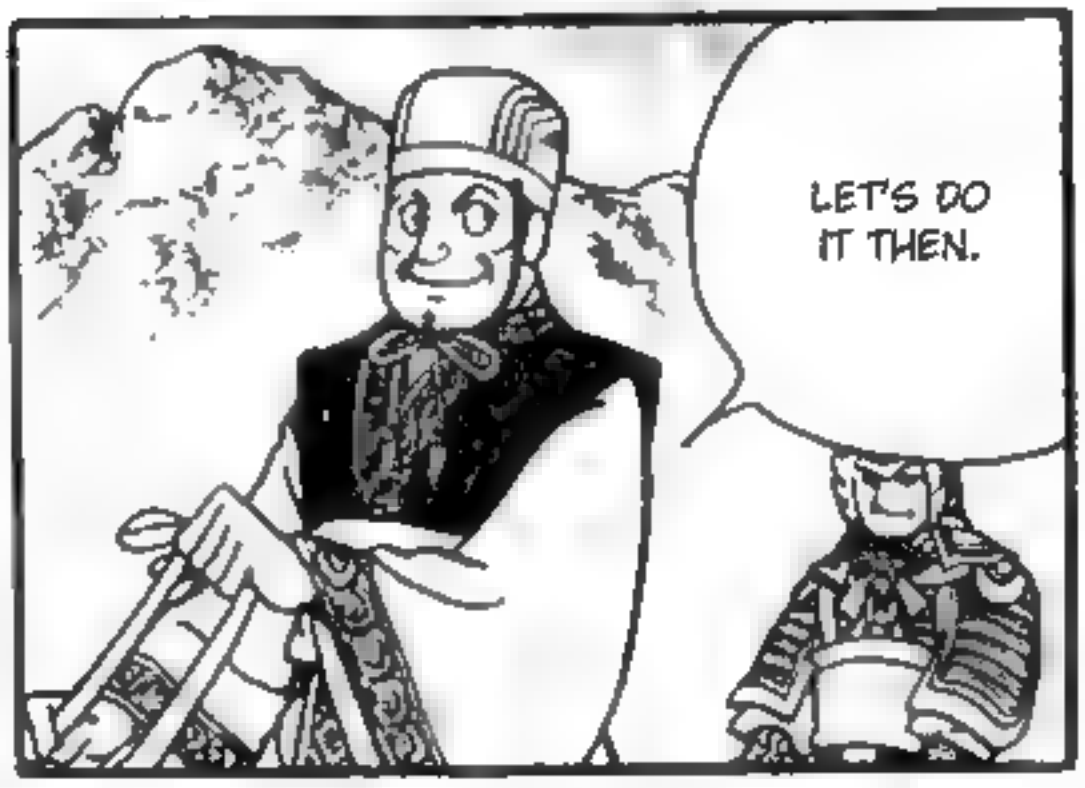

YOU THINK MENG DA WOULD JUST LET US LIVE IF WE REFUSED HIM THEN?

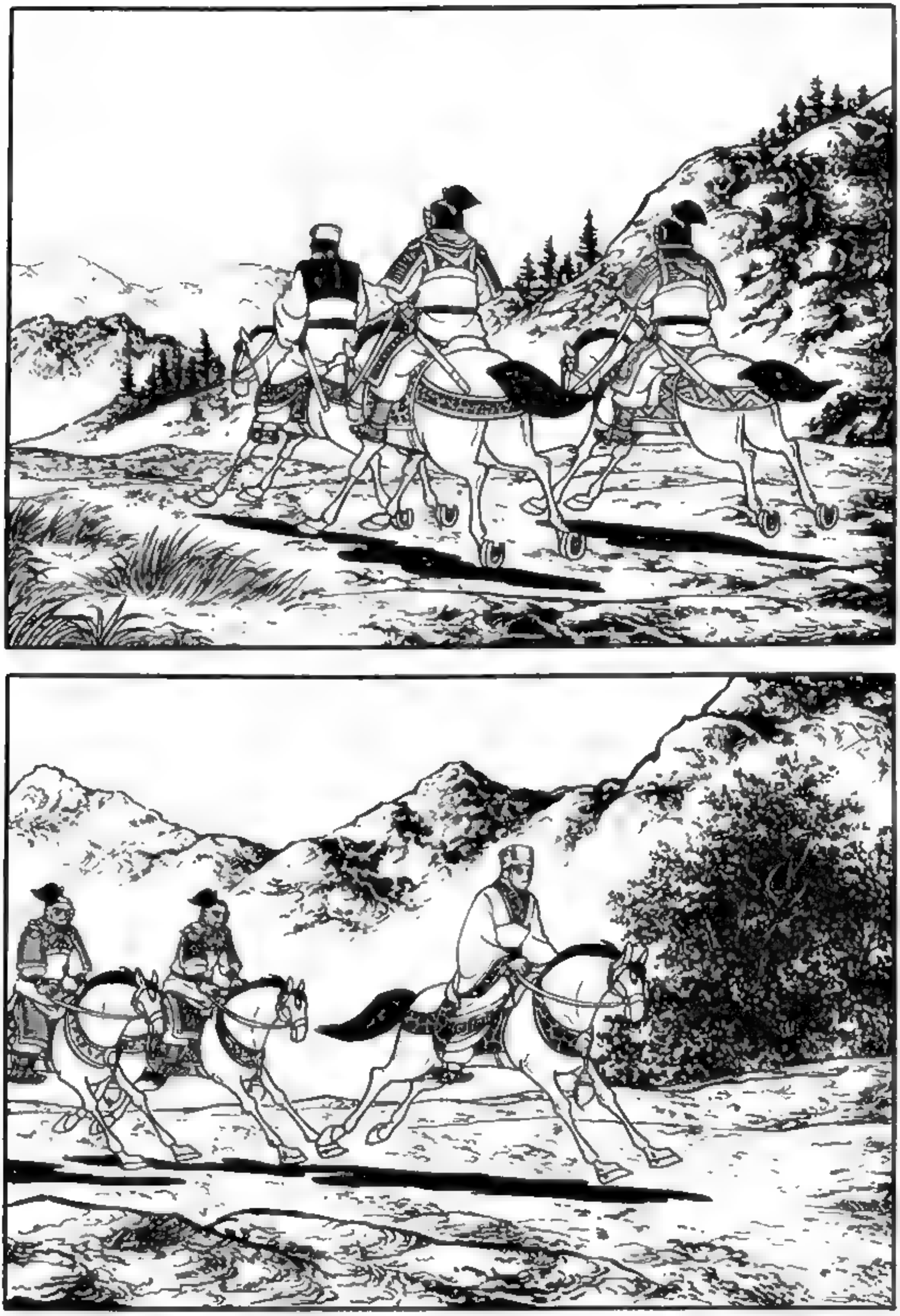

JUST TELL HIM THAT PREPARATIONS ARE TAKING LONGER THAN ANTICIPATED TO BUY US TIME.

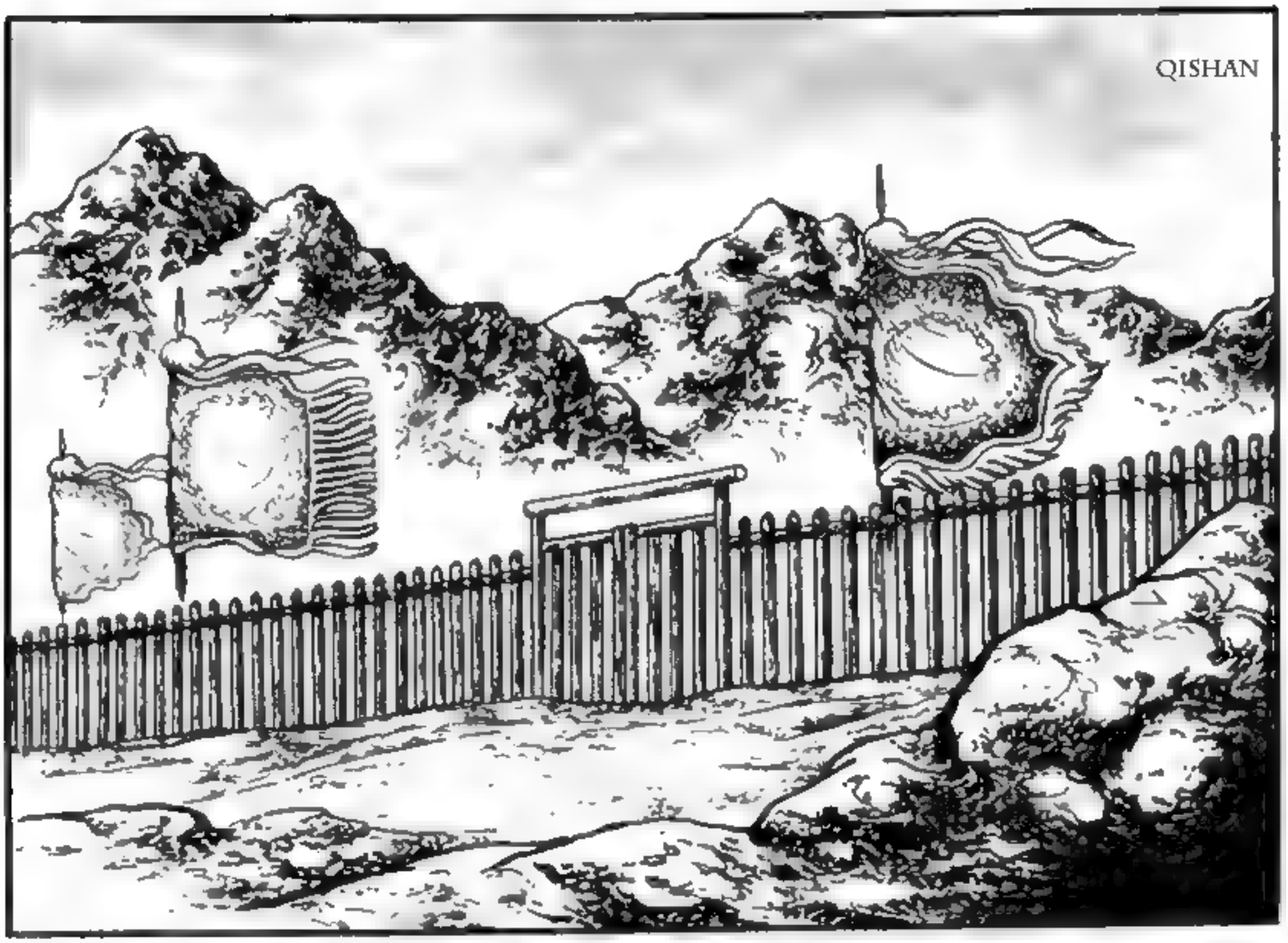

BUT MENG DA ASKED US TO MOBILIZE THE TROOPS AT ONCE. HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?
I THINK WE BETTER INFORM SIMA YI.

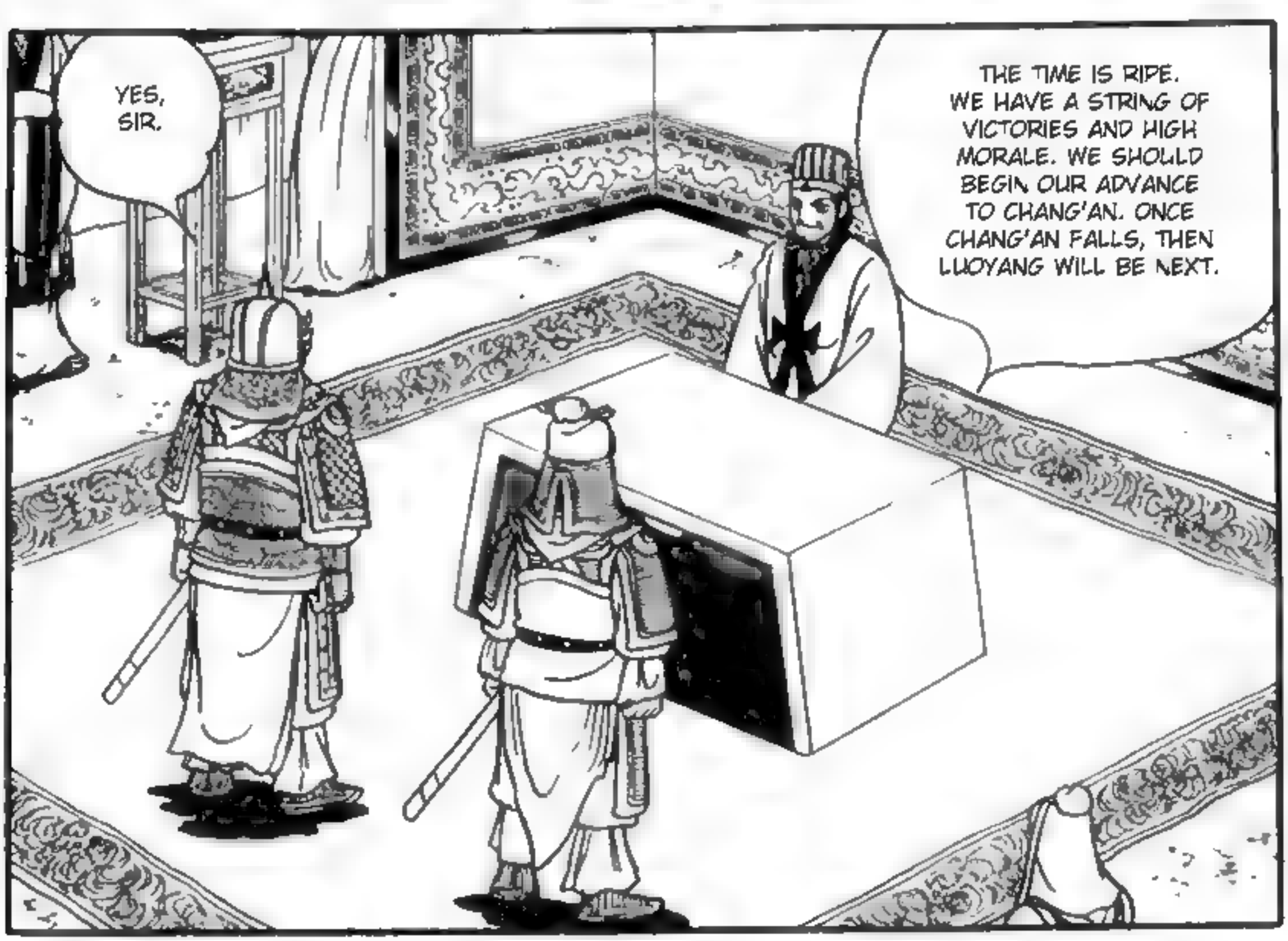

AH, OF COURSE.


YES, BROTHER.


LET'S DO IT THEN.




QISHAN


YES, SIR.
THE TIME IS RIPE. WE HAVE A STRING OF VICTORIES AND HIGH MORALE. WE SHOULD BEGIN OUR ADVANCE TO CHANG'AN. ONCE CHANG'AN FALLS, THEN LUOYANG WILL BE NEXT.

LI FENG HAS ARRIVED FROM BAIDICHENG.

I BRING A REPORT, SIR!

YES, SIR.

LI FENG? ISN'T HE THE SON OF LI YAN, WHO'S IN COMMAND OF BAIDICHENG?

YES, SIR.

SEND HIM IN AT ONCE.

A MESSAGE FROM BAIDICHENG? THAT CAN ONLY MEAN WU FORCES MAY BE PLANNING TO CROSS OUR BORDERS...


THIS WAY, SIR.
GREETINGS. WHAT BRINGS YOU ALL THE WAY UP HERE FROM BAIDICHENG?
HELLO, CHANCELLOR. I AM LI YAN'S SON, LI FENG.
GOOD NEWS...?
I HAVE COME ON BEHALF OF MY FATHER TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE GOOD NEWS.

YES, HOW COULD I FORGET? HAS MENG DA DONE SOMETHING AS OF LATE?

I AM SURE THE CHANCELLOR REMEMBERS MENG DA, WHO FLED TO WEI OUT OF FEAR OF BEING BLAMED FOR GUAN YU'S DEATH AND THE LOSS OF JINGZHOU.

ALTHOUGH CAO PI WELCOMED MENG DA, THE NEW EMPEROR CAO RUI AND HIS MINISTERS VIEW HIM COLDLY.

NOW, MENG DA REGRETS EVER FLEEING TO WEI AND HAS ASKED MY FATHER, AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE OF HIS, TO ASK YOU IF YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE HIM BACK.

HM...

THIS COLD TREATMENT HAS BEEN AGGRAVATED SINCE THE SHU INVASION OF WEI, SINCE HE USED TO BE A FORMER SHU OFFICER.

IF YOU AGREE, HE WILL GLADLY USE THE TROOPS OF XINCHENG, JINCHENG, AND SHANGYONG TO ATTACK LUOYANG WHILE YOUR FORCES ATTACK CHANG'AN. WITH THESE TWO CITIES CAPTURED, THEN ALL OF WEI WILL SOON FALL TO SHU.

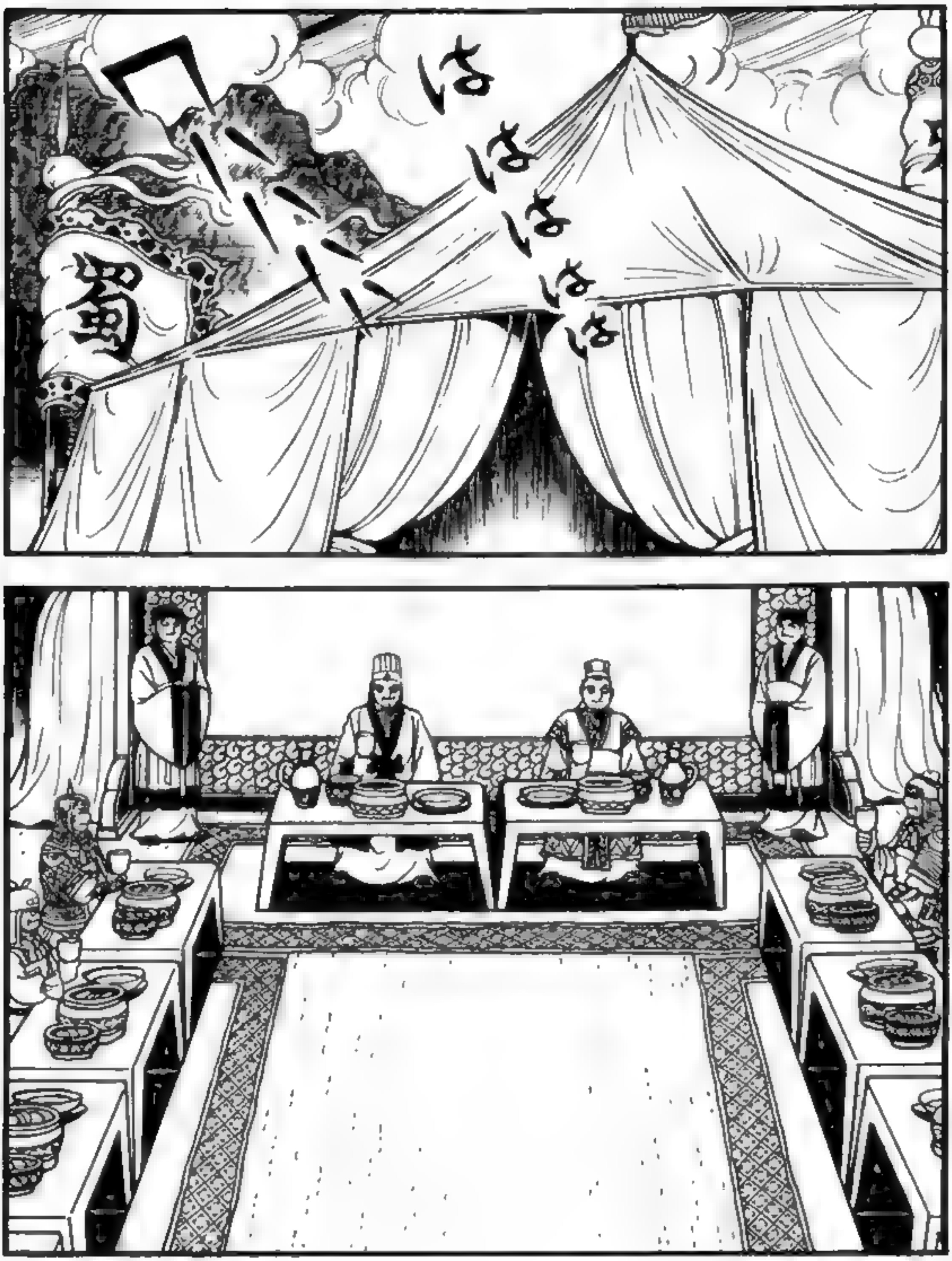
ATTACKED FROM BOTH WITHIN AND WITHOUT...? WEI WILL SURELY BE UNABLE TO WITHSTAND THIS...

HE WILL ATTACK LUOYANG!?

YES, SIR.

THIS IS INDEED EXCELLENT NEWS! CELEBRATIONS ARE IN ORDER! PREPARE A FEAST!

EXPOSED

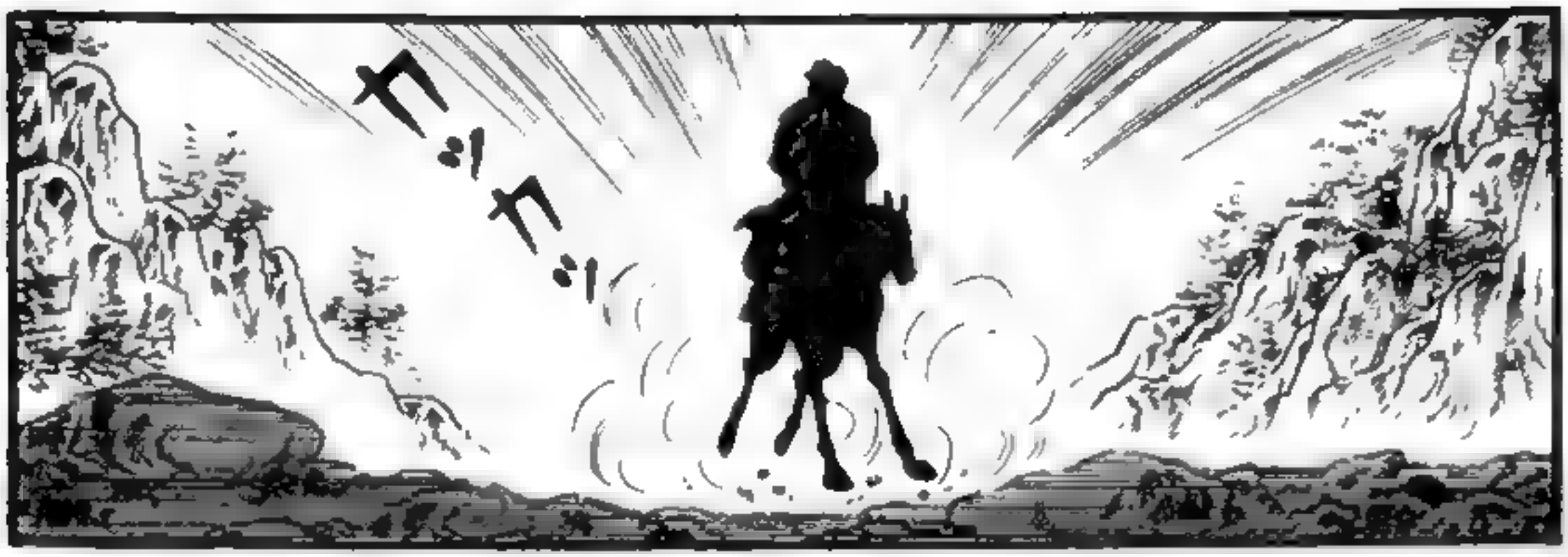


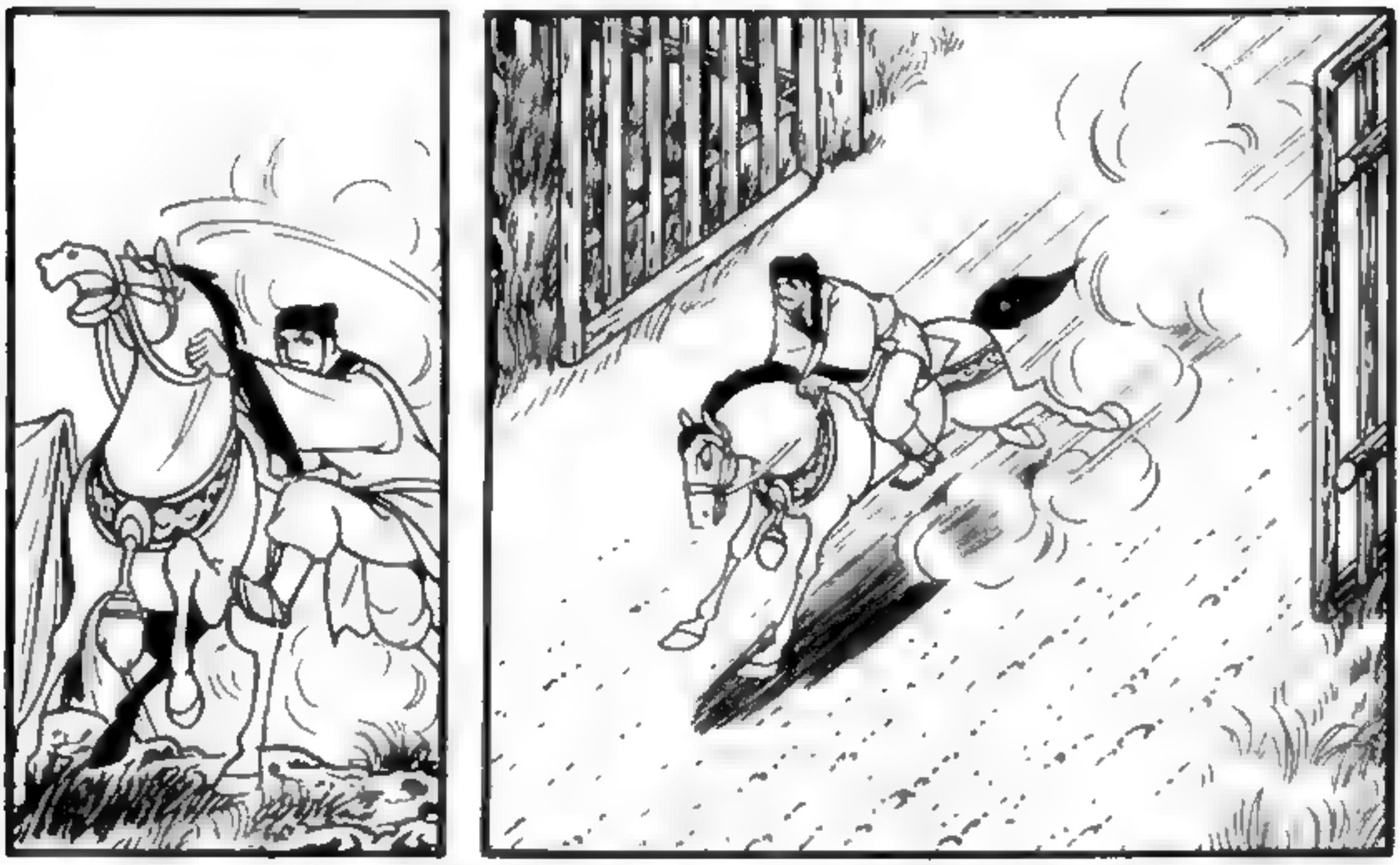
IF LUOYANG AND CHANG'AN ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY TAKEN, THEN WEI IS AS GOOD AS NO MORE.

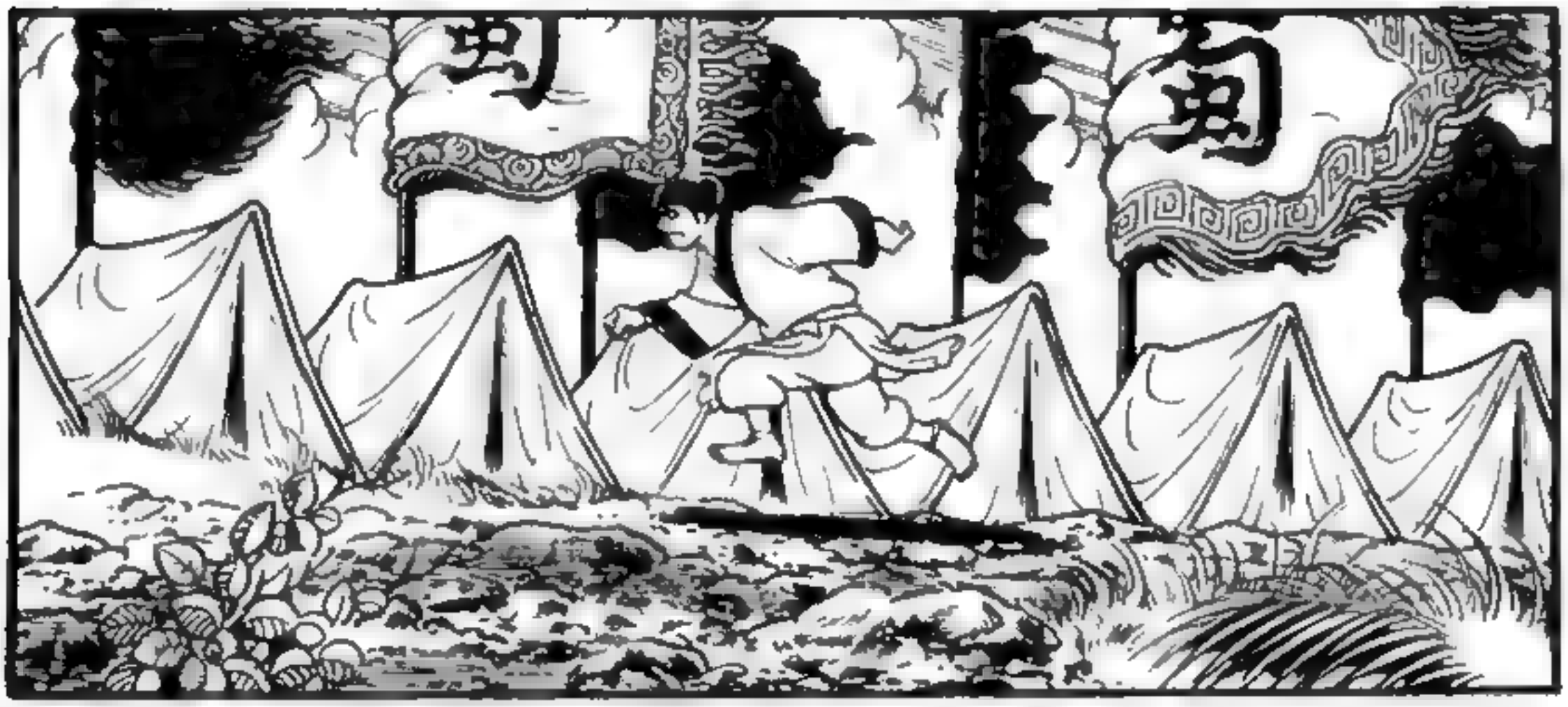
THIS CERTAINLY IS A JOYOUS NEWS!

INDEED.

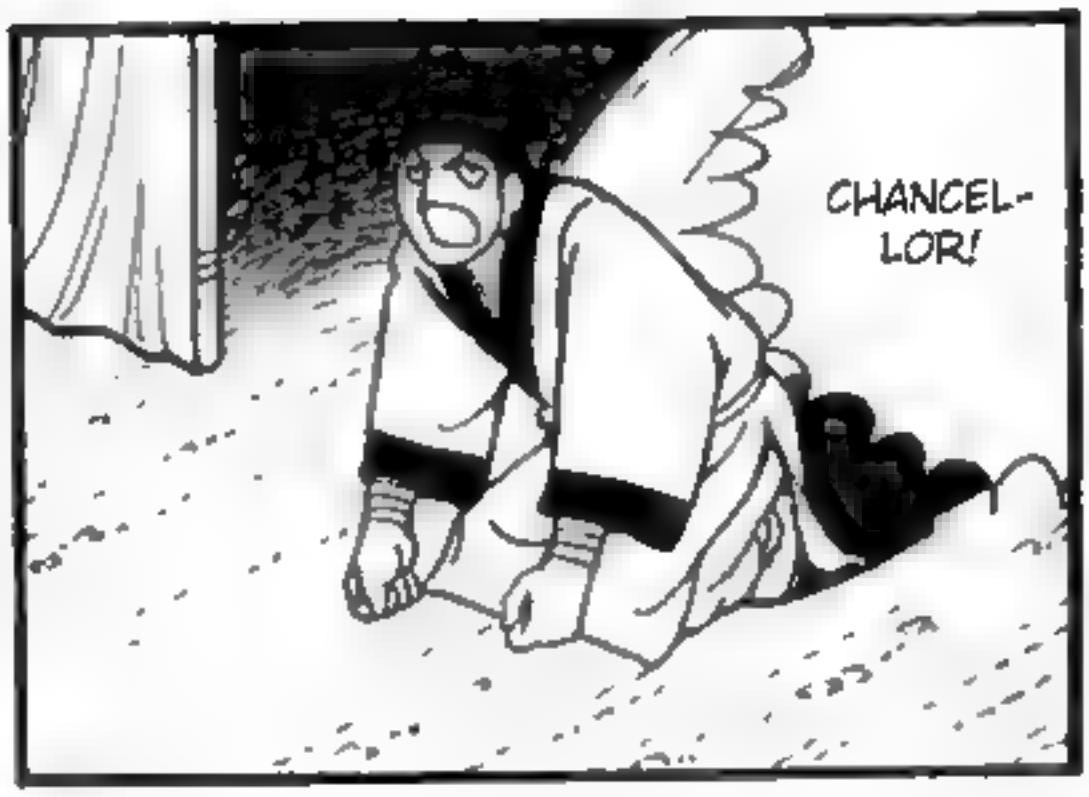
THE DAY THE HAN IS RESTORED AND THE REALM IS FULLY PACIFIED IS NEAR.

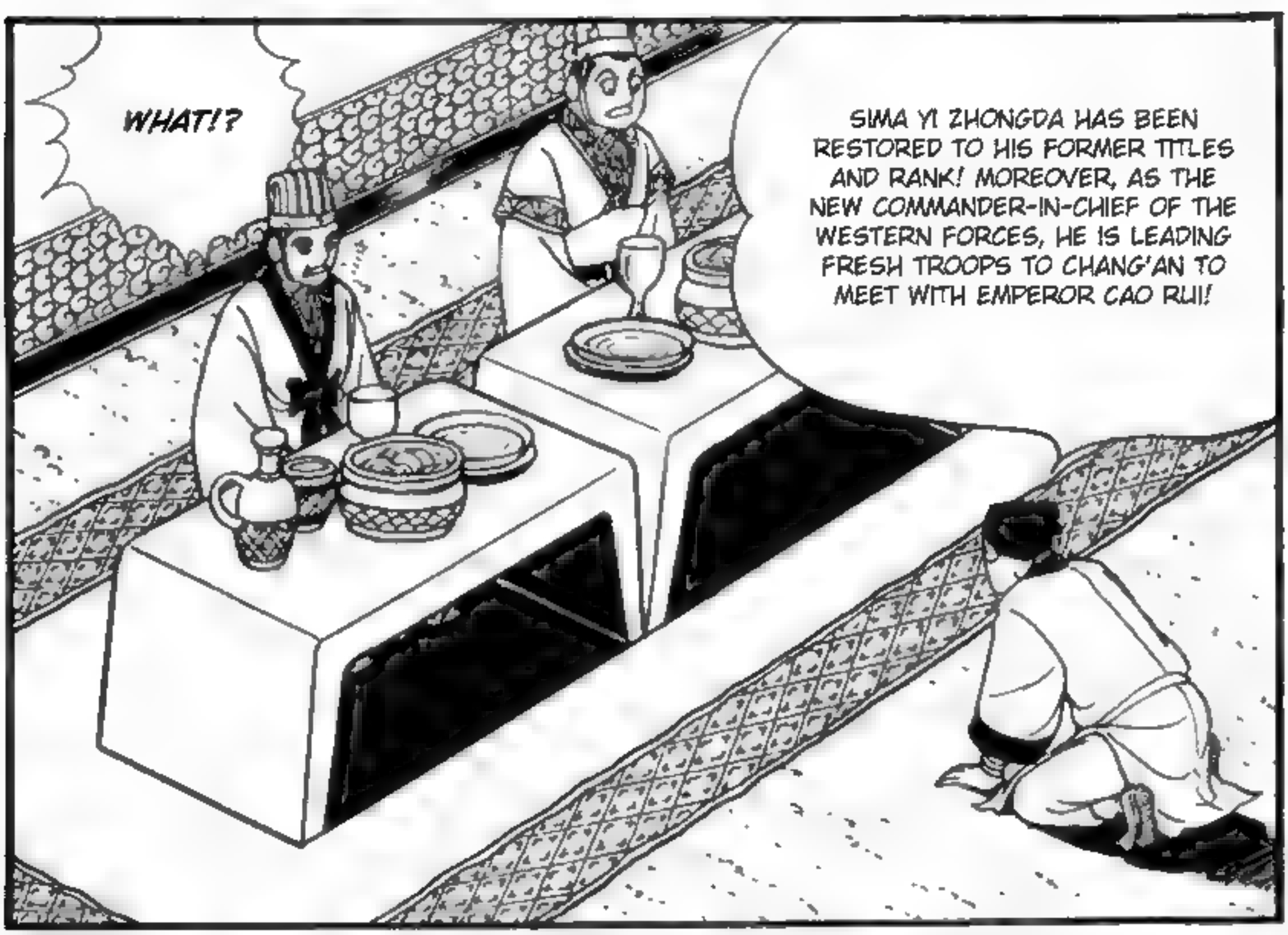







WHAT IS IT?


CHANCEL-LOR!


WHAT!?
SIMA YI ZHONGDA HAS BEEN RESTORED TO HIS FORMER TITLES AND RANK! MOREOVER, AS THE NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE WESTERN FORCES, HE IS LEADING FRESH TROOPS TO CHANG'AN TO MEET WITH EMPEROR CAO RUI!


YES, WITH THE TROOPS MUSTERED FROM NANYANG.


SIMA YI AND CAO RUI ARE BOTH HEADING TO CHANG'AN!?

WHAT NEED IS THERE TO FEAR THE YOUNG EMPEROR, CHANCELLOR? IN FACT, THIS MAY BE THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE HIM ALIVE.

C... CURSES...

IT IS SIMA YI, THE ONLY MAN IN WEI I DEEM CAPABLE ENOUGH TO BE CAUTIOUS OF.

IT IS NOT THE WEI EMPEROR I FEAR.

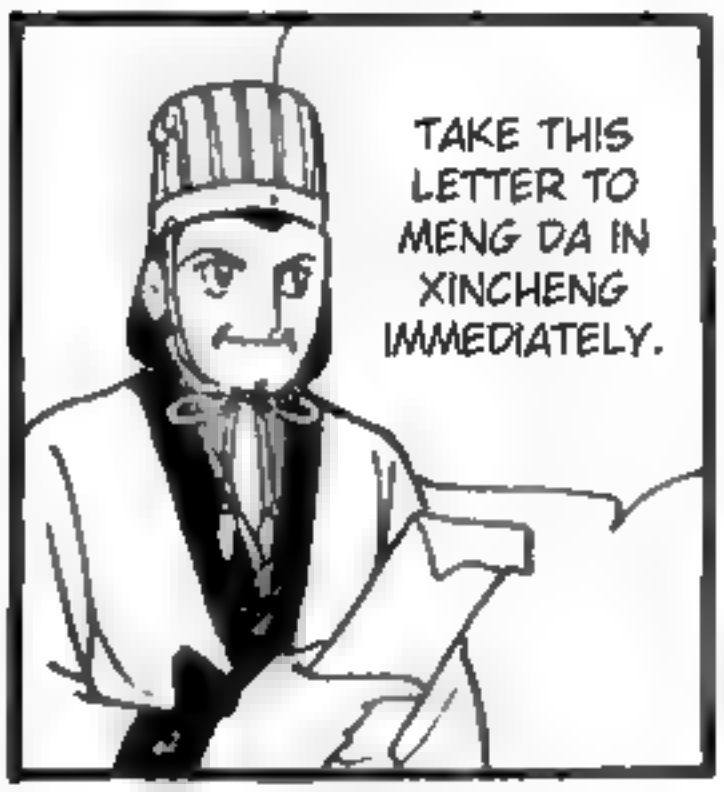
THEN PERHAPS A LETTER SHOULD BE SENT TO MENG DA, WARNING HIM ABOUT SIMA YI.

MENG DA IS NO MATCH FOR SIMA YI, AND IF WE LOSE MENG DA'S HELP, THEN OUR HOPES OF AN EASY CONQUEST OF WEI IS GOOD AS GONE.

IF SIMA YI IS THE NEW COMMANDER, THEN OUR CELEBRATIONS MAY BE PREMATURE. HE MAY VERY WELL PUT A STOP TO MENG DA'S REBELLION BEFORE IT STARTS.

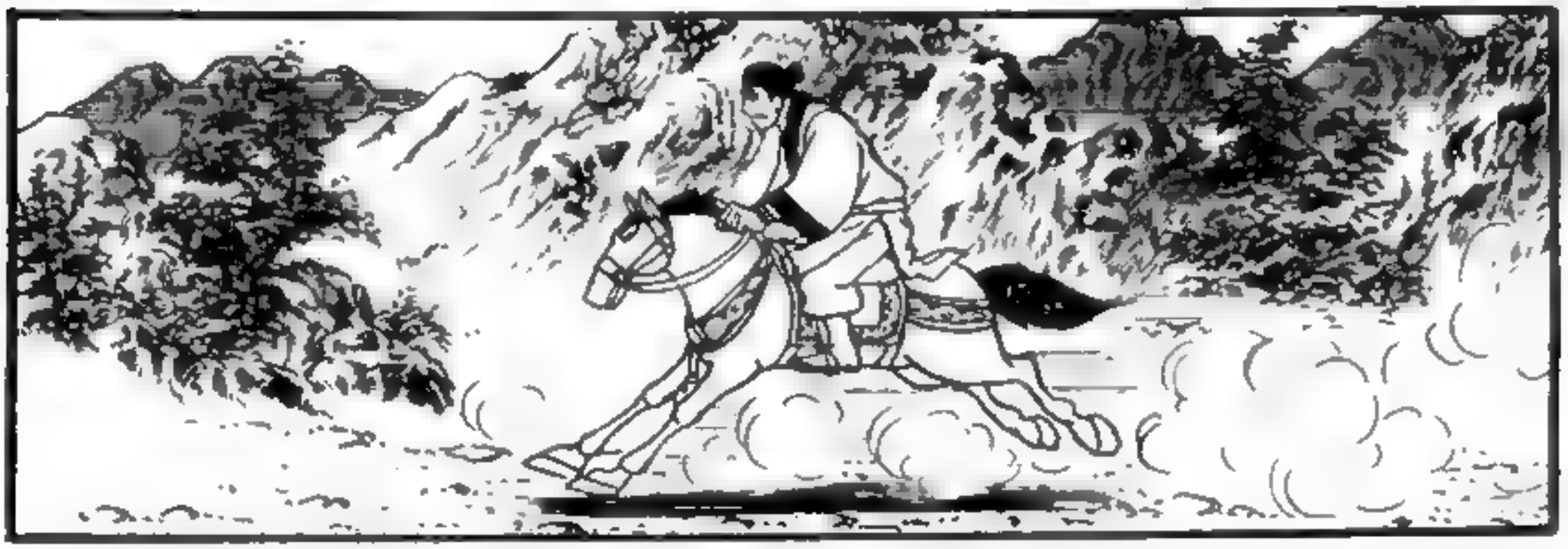



YES, I WILL GO DO THAT RIGHT NOW.


TAKE THIS LETTER TO MENG DA IN XINCHENG IMMEDIATELY.




YES, SIR.



YES, SIR.

THE CHANCEL-LOR AGREED TO TAKE ME BACK!?

YES, LET ME SEE.

THIS IS HIS LETTER.

YES, AND HE STRESSES YOU MUST BE WARY OF HIM.

HMM, SO SIMA YI HAS LEFT WANCHENG?

JUST THINK ABOUT IT. WANCHENG IS 800 LI AWAY FROM LUOYANG, AND 1200 LI AWAY FROM XINCHENG.

W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SIR?

THE CHANCEL-LOR IS QUITE THE ANXIOUS MAN, ISN'T HE?

I... I SEE...

EVEN IF SIMA YI WAS APPOINTED THE NEW COMMANDER, HE MUST STILL FORMALLY RECEIVE THE NEW POST FROM THE EMPEROR IN A CEREMONY TO GAIN THE AUTHORITY TO MOVE TROOPS ON HIS OWN. THAT ALONE WILL TAKE ALMOST A MONTH, CONSIDERING THE TIME IT TAKES FOR MESSENGERS TO TRAVEL.

TELL THE CHANCELLOR HE NEEDS NOT WORRY.

IN THE MEANWHILE, I CAN EASILY DEEPEN THE MOATS, FORTIFY THE LANDS IN XINCHENG, AND MOBILIZE THE TROOPS OF XINCHENG, JINCHENG, AND SHANGYONG. SIMA YI WILL BE UNABLE TO GET THE BETTER OF ME EASILY SO SOON.

THE SHEER FOLLY...!

WHAT DID HE WRITE, SIR?

YES, SIR.

WHAT! THIS IS MENG DA'S REPLY!?

BUT SIMA YI IS NOT GOING TO LUOYANG TO RECEIVE THE IMPERIAL COMMAND. HE WILL GET IT IN CHANG'AN, WHERE CAO RUI TOLD HIM THEY WOULD MEET. IT WILL NOT TAKE A MONTH FOR SIMA YI TO GAIN COMMAND OF ALL TROOPS ON THE WESTERN FRONT.

HE THINKS IT WILL TAKE ALMOST A MONTH BEFORE SIMA YI GAINS FREE REIGN OF WEI TROOPS.

EVEN SO, WOULD SIMA YI REALLY DARE TO MOVE THE WEI ARMY BEFORE FORMALLY RECEIVING COMMAND FROM THE WEI EMPEROR? THAT IS PRACTICALLY A TREASONOUS ACT.

LIKE MENG DA, YOU MEN HERE ALSO SEEM TO BE UNAWARE OF HOW CAPABLE SIMA YI CAN BE.

IF SIMA YI FINDS OUT ABOUT MENG DA'S PLOT, HE WILL NOT BOTHER TO WAIT FOR CAO RUI. HE WILL ORDER A RAPID-MARCH AND CRUSH MENG DA WITHOUT HESITATION. HE CAN ACCOMPLISH ALL THIS IN NO MORE THAN 10 DAYS.

WHAT DOES SUN TZU'S ART OF WAR SAY? "ATTACK WHERE THE ENEMY IS UNPREPARED. ACT AS THE ENEMY DOES NOT EXPECT."

YES, SIR.

TAKE THIS LETTER TO XINCHENG ONCE MORE.


HERE.


"IF YOU HAVE YET TO START THE REBELLION, THEN MAKE SURE TO NOT LET ANYONE ELSE KNOW. OTHERWISE, YOUR LIFE IS IN MORTAL DANGER..."


YES, SIR.




西蜀
XINCHENG
新城

YES, I HOPE YOU WILL, GENERAL.
HAHA, I SEE. VERY WELL, TELL THE CHANCELLOR I UNDERSTAND HIS MESSAGE AND WILL BE ON MY GUARD.


KONGMING REALLY DOES NOT LEAVE EVEN A SINGLE THING UP TO CHANCE, DOES HE...



FINE, LET HIM IN.

YES, SIR.

FROM JINCHENG?

A MESSENGER FROM JINCHENG HAS ARRIVED, SIR.

MENG DA, THE GOVERNOR OF XINCHENG, HAS RECENTLY ASKED SHEN YI AND HIS BROTHER SHEN DAN TO HELP HIS PLOT TO REBEL AGAINST OUR EMPIRE.

AND I AM SIMA YI. WHAT DOES HE WISH TO SAY?

SHEN YI, THE GOVERNOR OF JINCHENG, HAS SENT ME HERE ON HIS BEHALF.

WHILE FEIGNING AGREEMENT, MY LORD HAS SENT ME HERE TO INFORM YOU OF THIS SINISTER PLOT.

WHAT!? MENG DA IS PLANNING A REBELLION!?

HM...

MENG DA'S NEPHEW DENG XIAN AND HIS CONFIDANT LI GU ALSO DO NOT WISH TO REBEL AND HAVE SENT THIS LETTER TO INFORM YOU ABOUT MENG DA'S PLANS.

YES, SIR.

THANK YOU FOR ALERTING ME. I WILL MAKE SURE THE LOYALTY OF THE SHEN BROTHERS ARE NOT FORGOTTEN BY WEI.

DON'T BE ABSURD. DOING SO WILL POSSIBLY TAKE A WHOLE MONTH! IN THAT TIME, MENG DA CAN STRENGTHEN THE DEFENSES OF XINCHENG AND PLACE HIS TROOPS IN KEY DEFENSIVE PASSES TO WITHSTAND A NUMERICALLY SUPERIOR FOE.

FATHER, SHOULD WE NOT BE HEADING TO CHANG'AN SO YOU CAN SUBMIT A MEMORIAL TO THE EMPEROR?

YES.

WE WILL GO TO XINCHENG AT ONCE!

UPON LEARNING MENG DA'S PLOT, SIMA YI ORDERED A RAPID MARCH TO XINCHENG WITHOUT HESITATION. THE ARMY COVERED GROUND TWICE AS FASTER THAN IT NORMALLY WOULD




MIGHT SIR BE SIMA YI, THE NEW COMMANDER?


HM?


HEARING THAT THE EMPEROR WOULD BE COMING TO CHANG'AN, WE WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF MARCHING THERE RIGHT NOW. SHOULD YOU NOT BE HEADING THERE AS WELL?


YES, AND YOU MUST BE XU HUANG, GENERAL OF THE RIGHT.

A REBEL-LION!?

ACTUALLY, I JUST HEARD THAT MENG DA IS PLANNING A REBELLION. I AM RUSHING TO XINCHENG TO PUT A STOP TO IT BEFORE IT EVEN BEGINS.

ALLOW ME TO SERVE AS YOUR VANGUARD, COMMANDER!

I KNEW THAT FORMER SHU OFFICER COULDN'T BE TRUSTED!

THEN I WILL LEAD THE WAY TO XINCHENG.

YES, THAT WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED.


MEN! WE MARCH TO XINCHENG AT DOUBLE-SPEED!
YES, THE REBELLION CAN BE CRUSHED WITH EASE NOW.
WHAT A TIMELY ARRIVAL OF AN ALLY, FATHER.

EXCUSE ME, SIR!

THE ENEMY'S LETTER!?

A SUSPICIOUS MAN CARRYING THE LETTER OF KONGMING TO MENG DA WAS ARRESTED.

YES, SIR.

BRING HIM TO ME!

THIS WAY!

SO THIS IS KONGMING'S SECRET MESSENGER...

Y-YES, SIR.

I PROMISE NOT TO KILL YOU SO TELL ME EVERYTHING.

HOW LONG DID KONGMING THINK I WOULD TAKE?

HM...

MENG DA THOUGHT IT WOULD TAKE A WHOLE MONTH BEFORE SIMA YI TAKES ACTION IN THE WESTERN FRONT. KONGMING DISAGREED SIMA YI WOULD TAKE SO LONG AND HAD ME SENT MULTIPLE LETTERS TELLING MENG DA TO BE ON HIS HIGHEST GUARD.

10 DAYS AT MOST...

HMM...

THANK YOU, SIR.

VERY WELL, I WILL SPARE YOUR LIFE AS PROMISED.

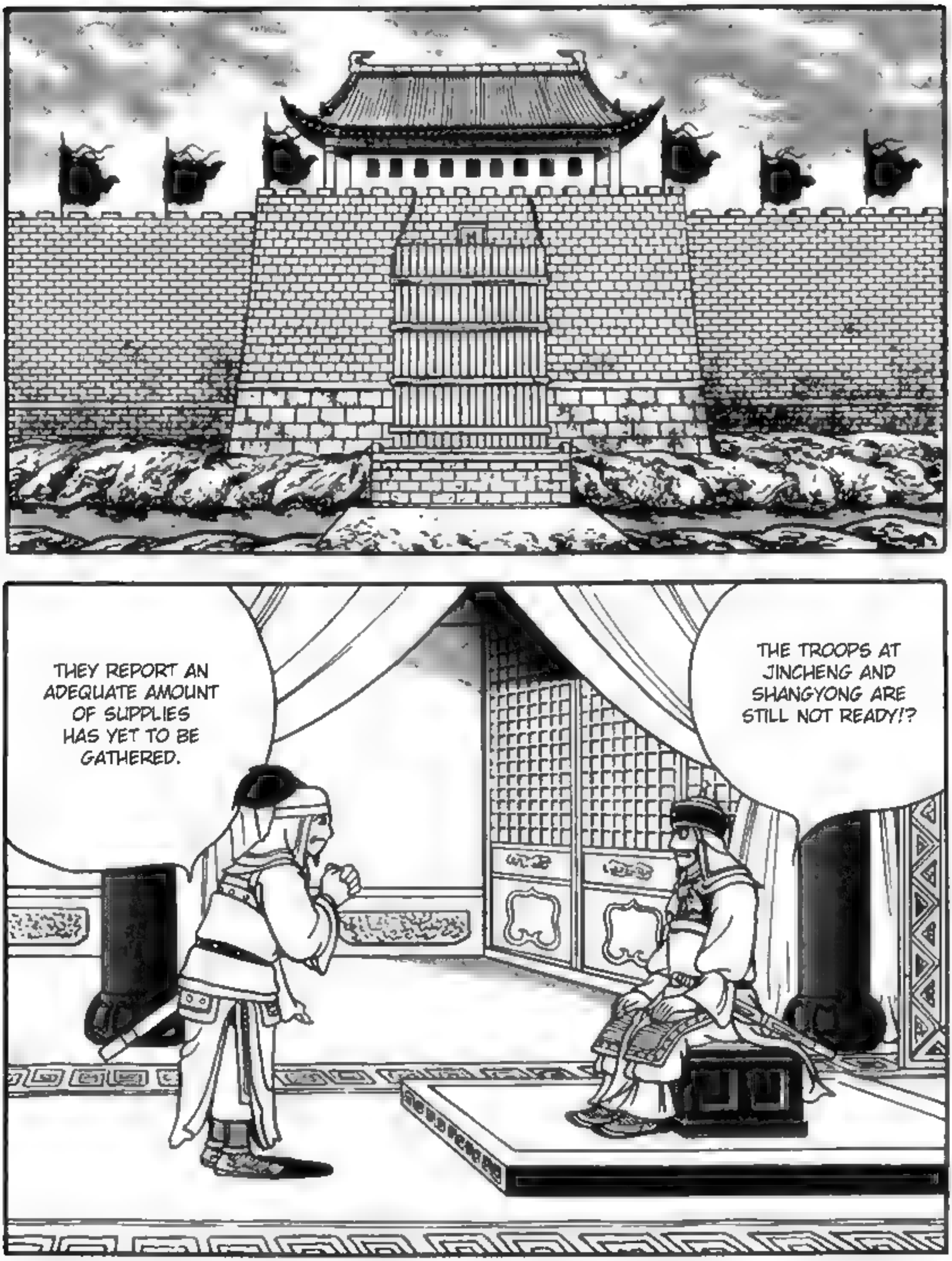
BUT WE'VE SAFELY INTERCEPTED THE LETTER, SO THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

IT'S A LETTER WARNING MENG DA THAT I COULD ARRIVE IN XINCHENG IN BARELY 10 DAYS IF THE PLOT WAS FOUND OUT.

WHAT DID KONGMING WRITE, FATHER?

BUT IT'S ALMOST FRIGHTENING THAT KONGMING KNEW EXACTLY HOW I WOULD ACT. IF MENG DA HAD ONLY PROPERLY HEEDED KONGMING'S ADVICE, THEN OUR EMPIRE WOULD BE IN MAJOR DANGER RIGHT NOW.

MENG DA'S END


THEY REPORT AN ADEQUATE AMOUNT OF SUPPLIES HAS YET TO BE GATHERED.
THE TROOPS AT JINCHENG AND SHANGYONG ARE STILL NOT READY!?

SIR!

WHAT ARE THE SHEN BROTHERS DOING!? I STILL CAN'T GET MY REBELLION STARTED, ALL THANKS TO THEM!

AN ARMY HAS BEEN SPOTTED MARCHING HERE. WE'RE NOT SURE WHOSE ARMY IT IS YET.

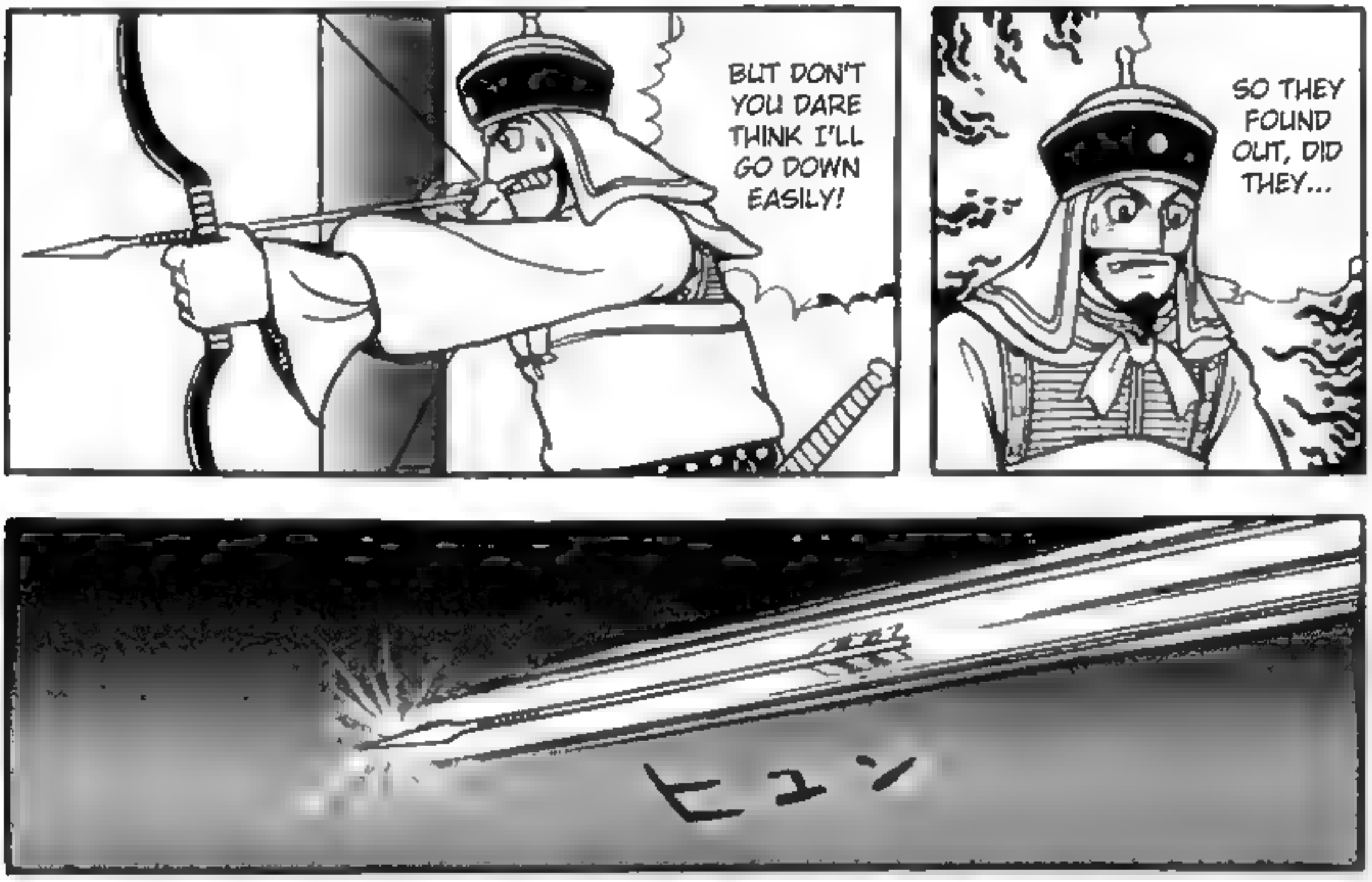
WHAT!?

AHH!

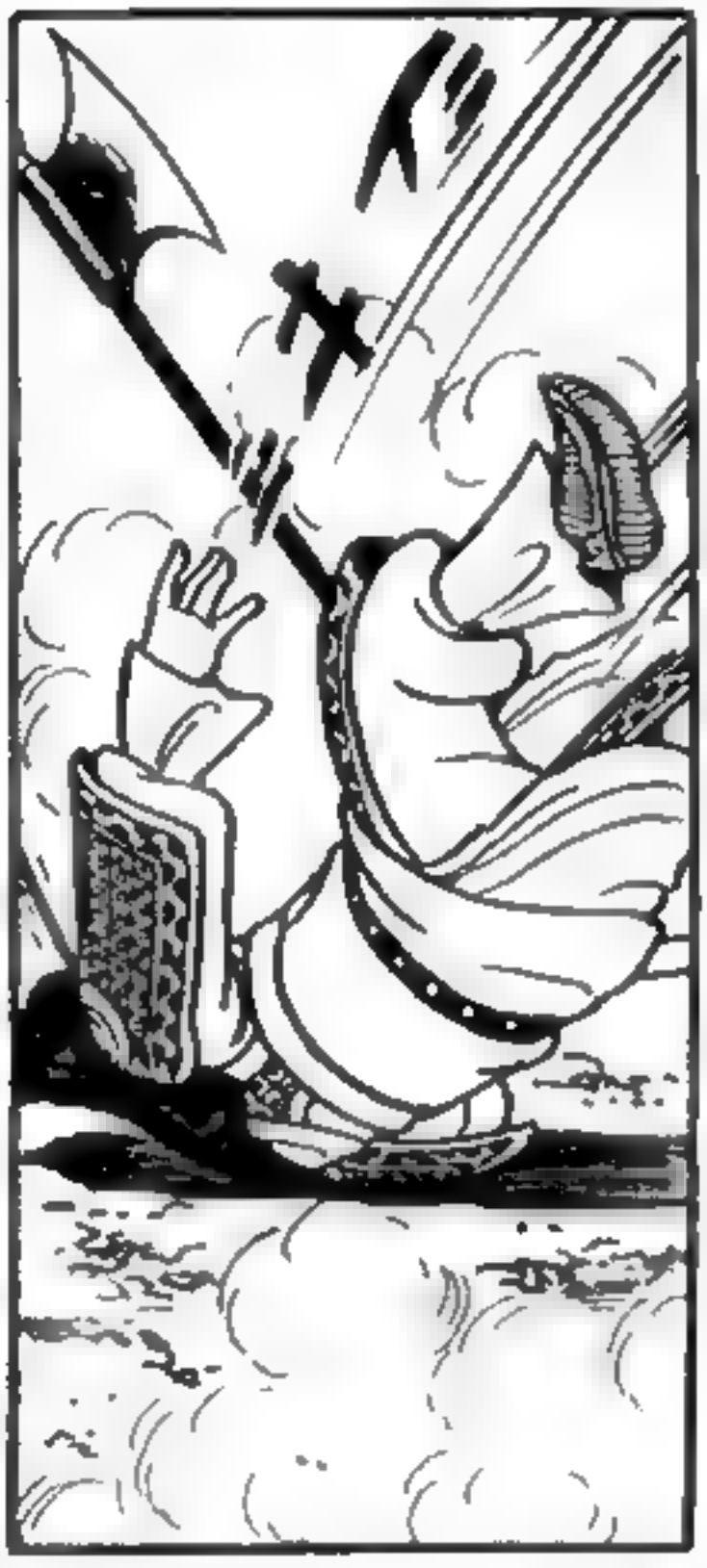
T-THAT'S XU HUANG'S BANNER!

徐晃

MENG DA! YOUR PLOT IS ALREADY EXPOSED! I SUGGEST YOU LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS AND SURRENDER!


BUT DON'T YOU DARE THINK I'LL GO DOWN EASILY!
SO THEY FOUND OUT, DID THEY...
ヒュン
AGHH!
GENERAL!

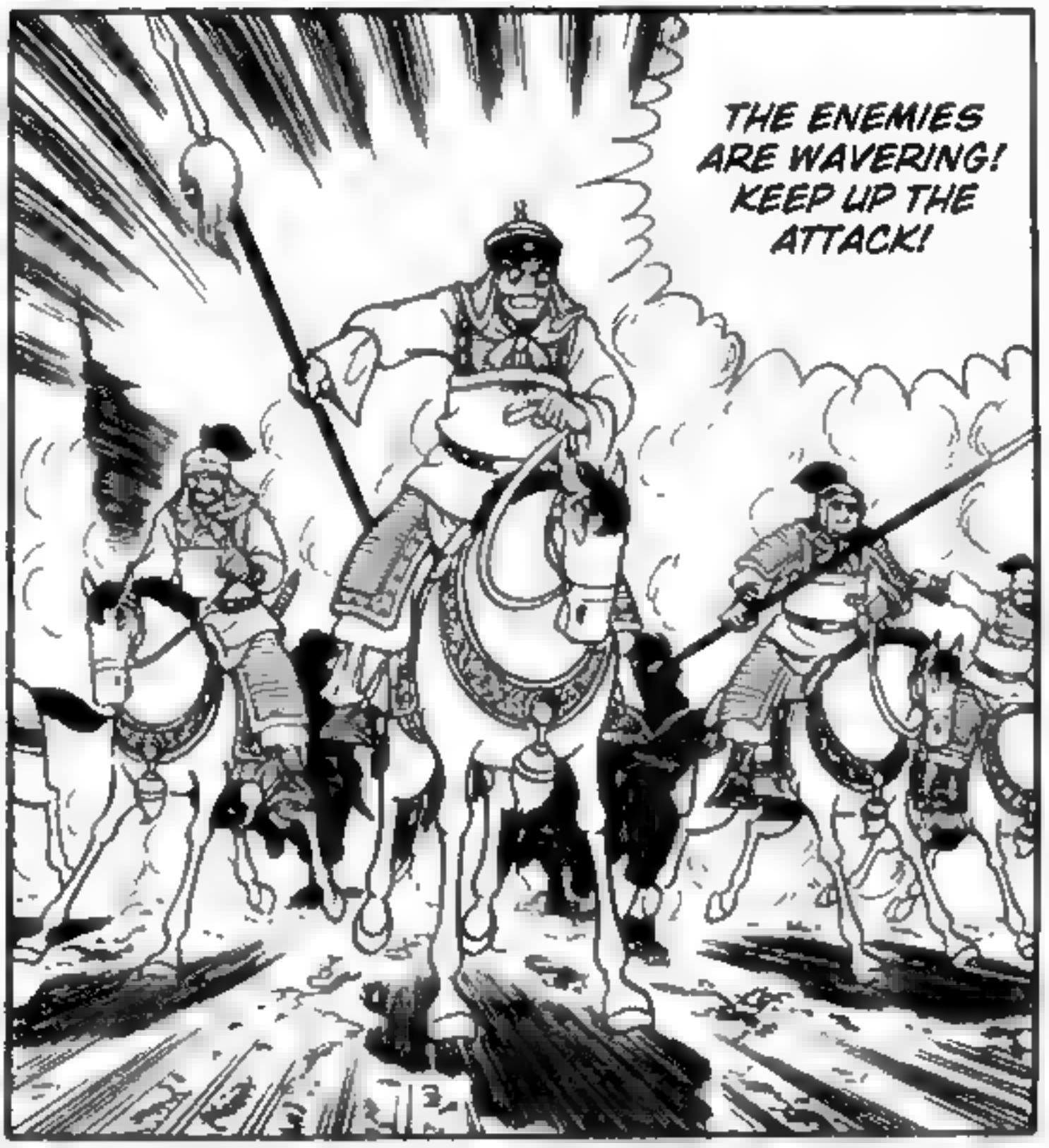

THE ENEMY ARMY IS NOW A CHICKEN WITHOUT A HEAD! LET'S SWEEP THEM AWAY!
HA! LOOK AT THAT! I'VE SHOT DOWN THE GREAT XU HUANG!



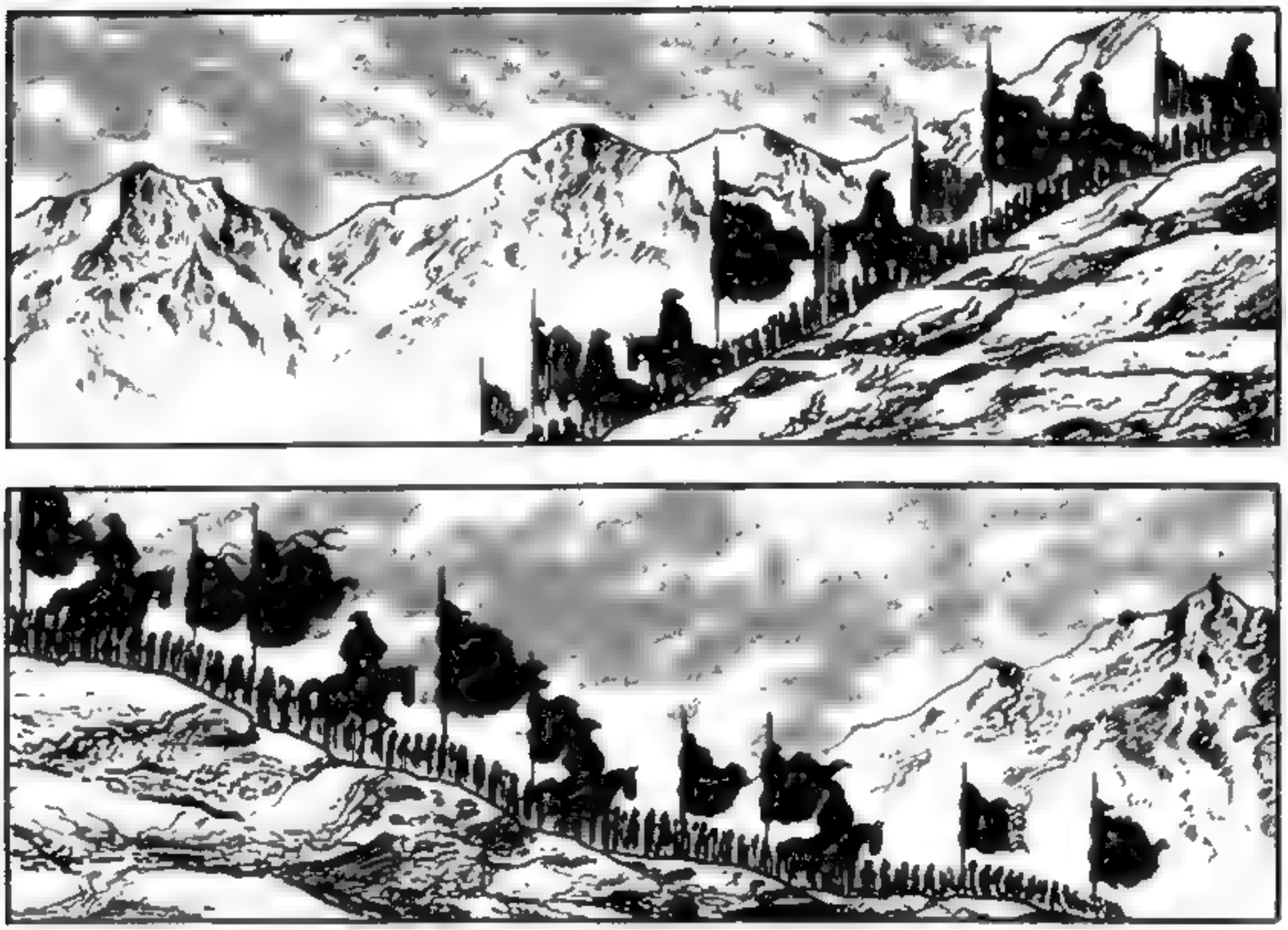


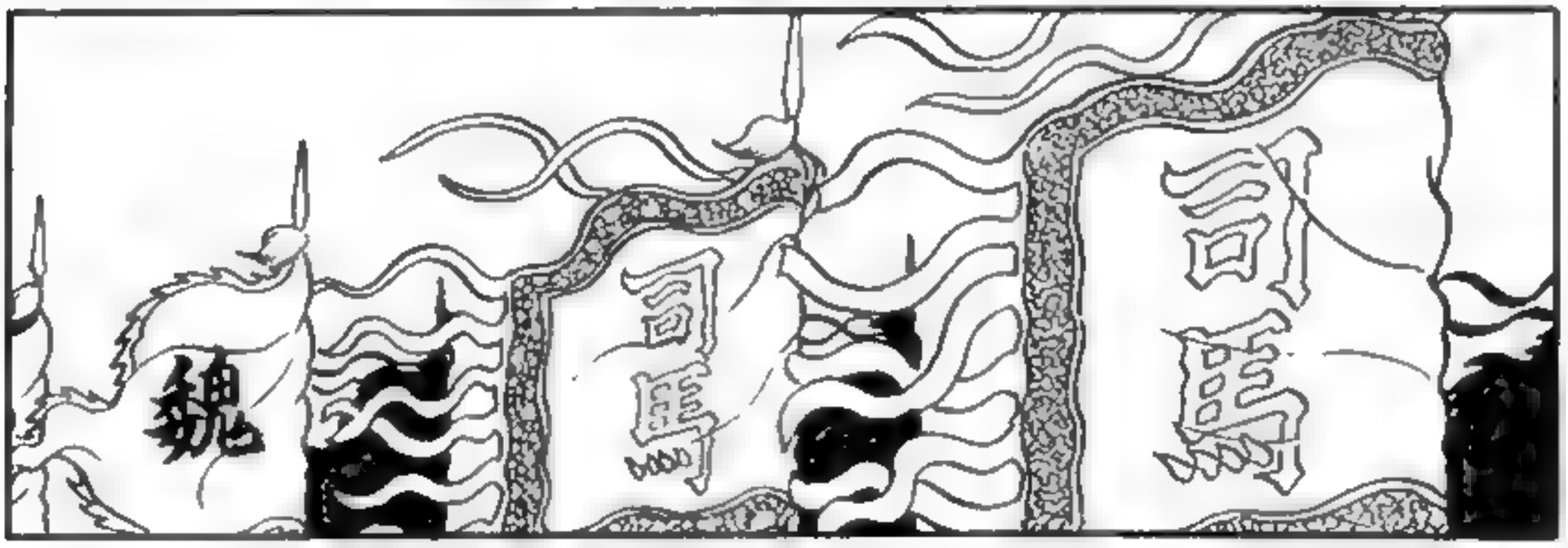

AHH!
AHH!
GAHHH!
ACK!


HM?
?


THE ENEMIES ARE WAVERING! KEEP UP THE ATTACK!





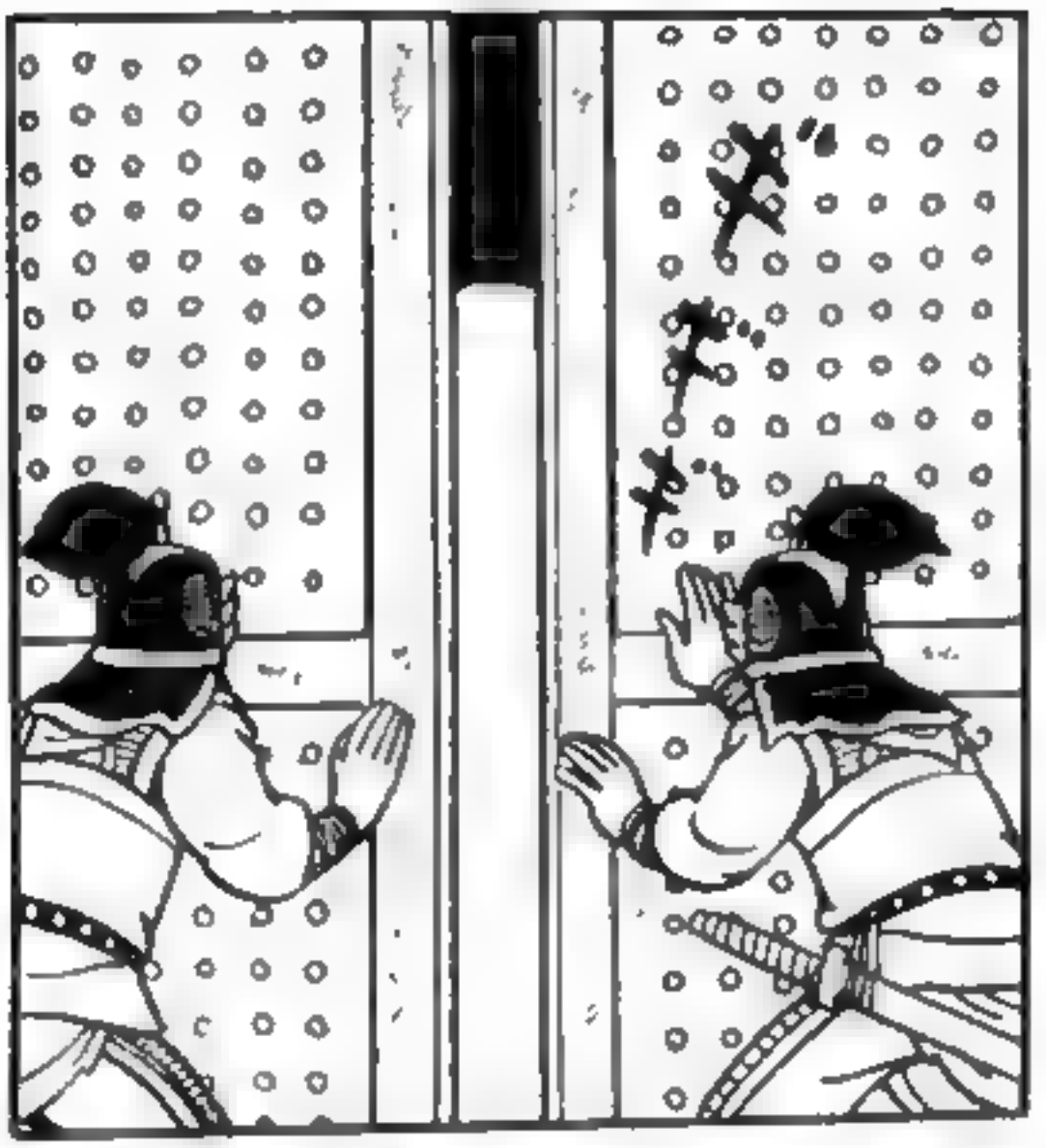

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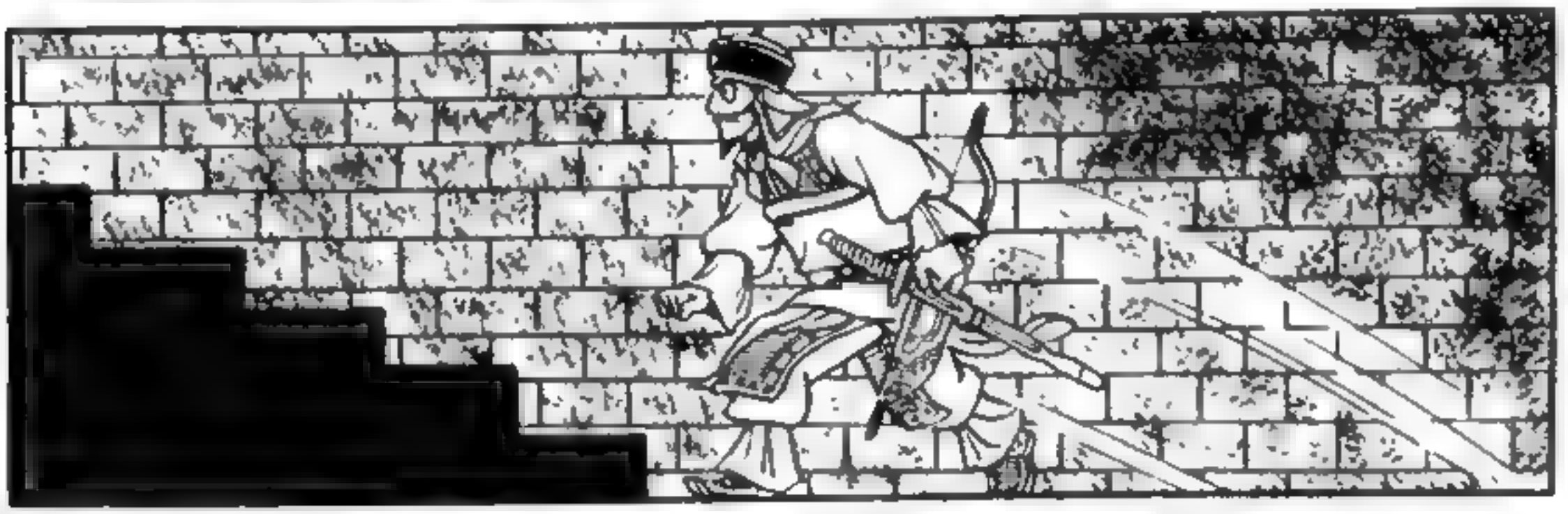

RETREAT! RETREAT!

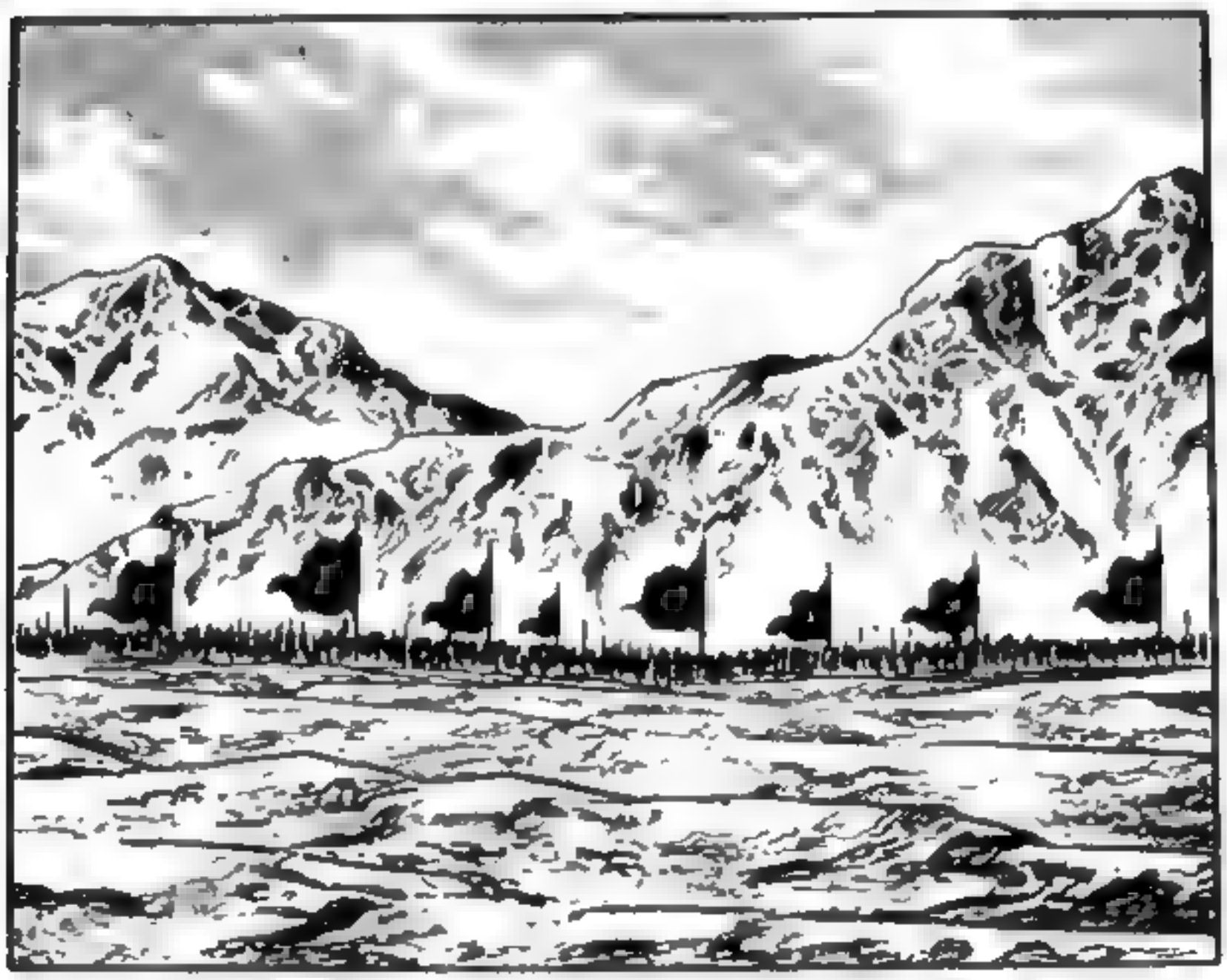

WHEN DID HE GET HERE!?
S-SIMA YI'S BANNER!?

CLOSE THE GATES AND PREPARE TO DEFEND THE WALLS!












KONGMING WAS RIGHT...


JUST LOOK AT THEIR NUMBERS...


ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS HOLD THEM OFF FOR A LITTLE WHILE. ONCE THE SHU ARMY PRESSES TOWARDS CHANG'AN, SIMA YI WILL BE FORCED TO TURN AROUND.

YES, LED BY SHEN DAN AND SHEN YI.

REINFORCE-MENTS?

REINFORCE-MENTS HAVE ARRIVED, SIR!

OHHH!

OPEN THE GATES! WE'VE MANAGED TO BREAK THROUGH THE ENEMY ENCIRCLEMENT OF XINCHENG!

OPEN THE GATES!

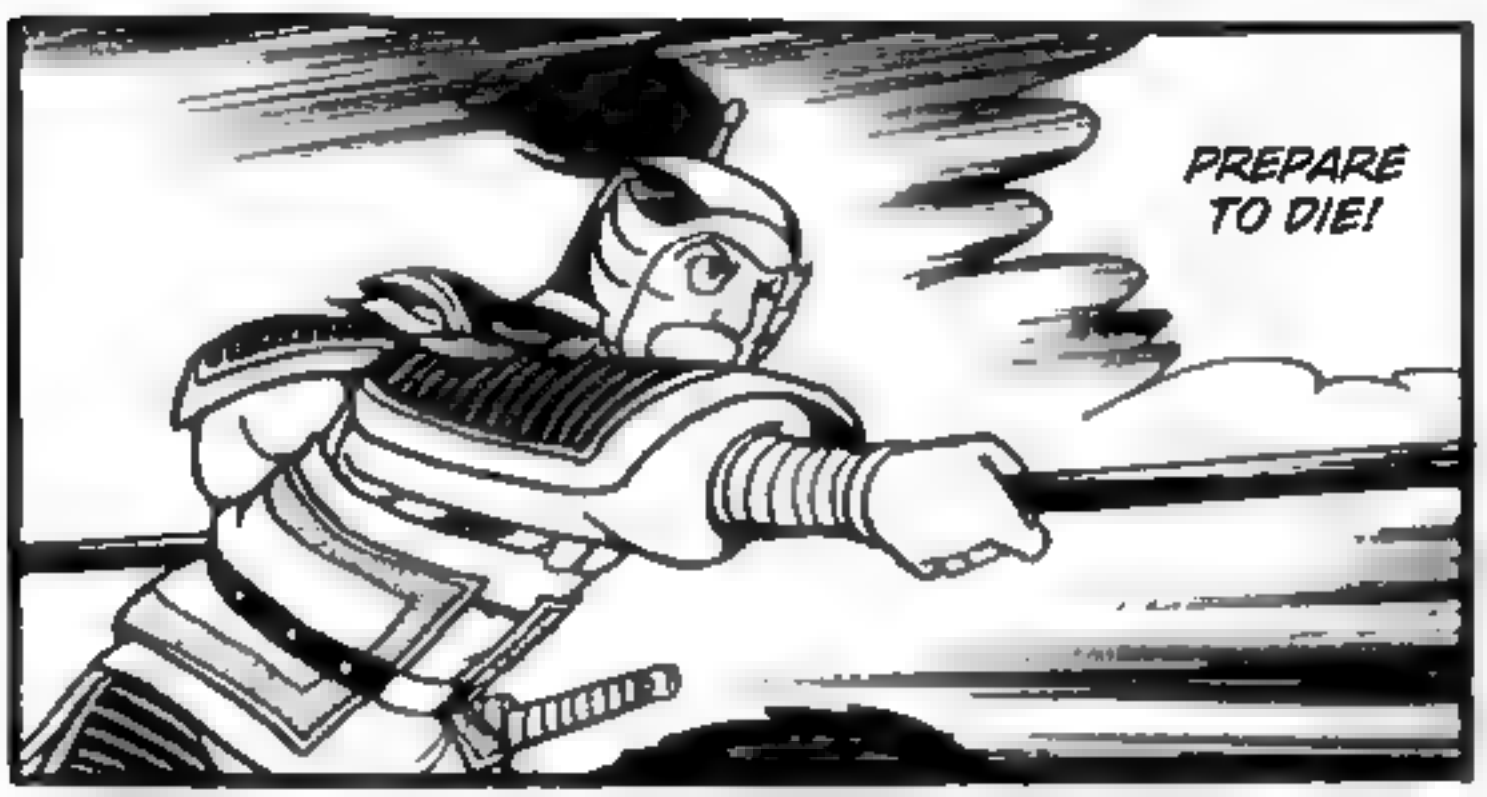
SHEN DAN! SHEN YI! YOU CAME JUST AT THE RIGHT TIME!

GREAT TIMING!

WITH YOUR HELP, WE SHOULD DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO HOLD SIMA YI'S FORCES OFF LONG ENOUGH UNTIL HE'S FORCED TO GIVE UP THE SIEGE.


WE'VE COME TO TAKE YOUR HEAD, NOT DEFEND XINCHENG!


HAHA...

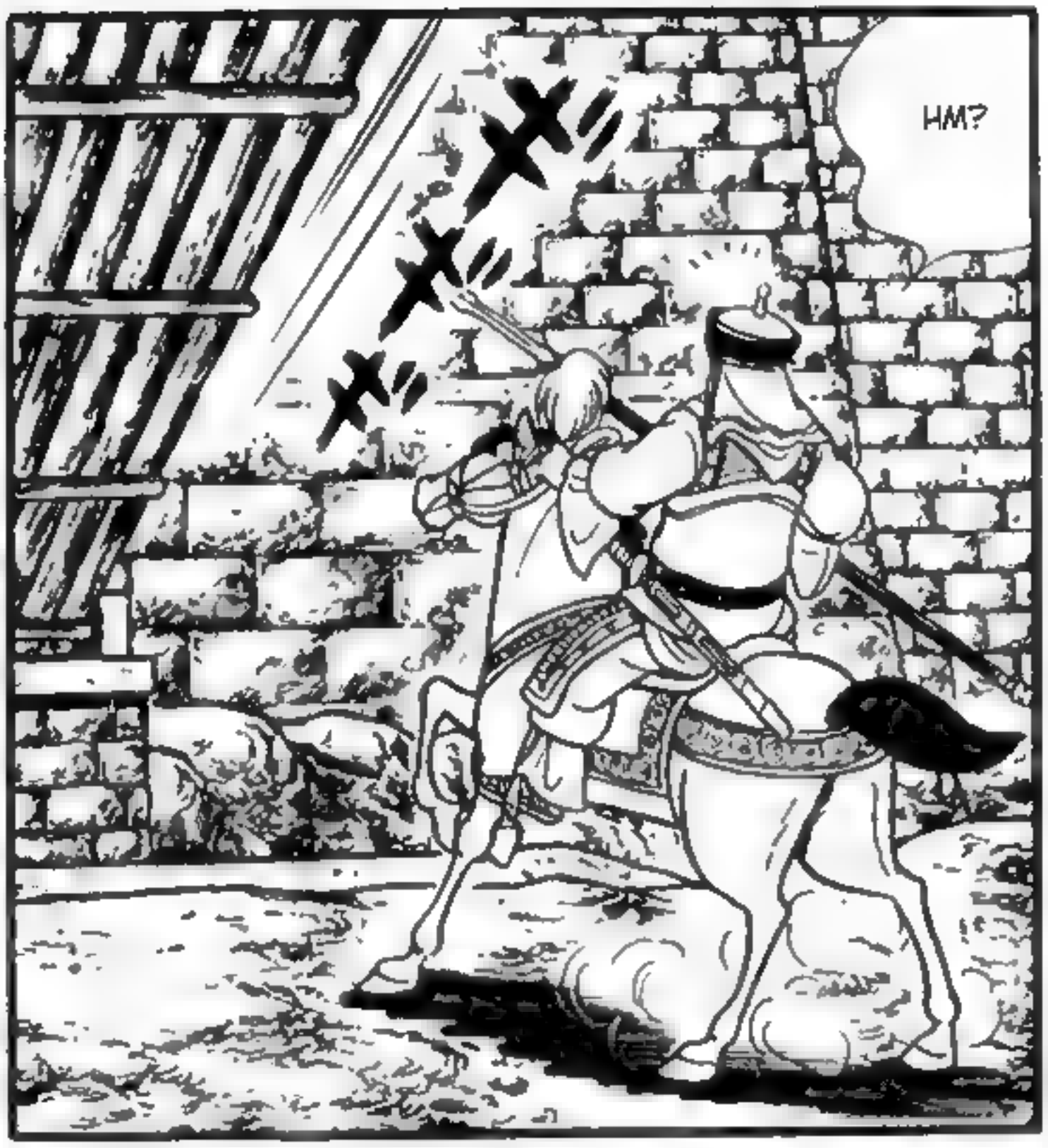

PREPARE TO DIE!


WHA!


YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!

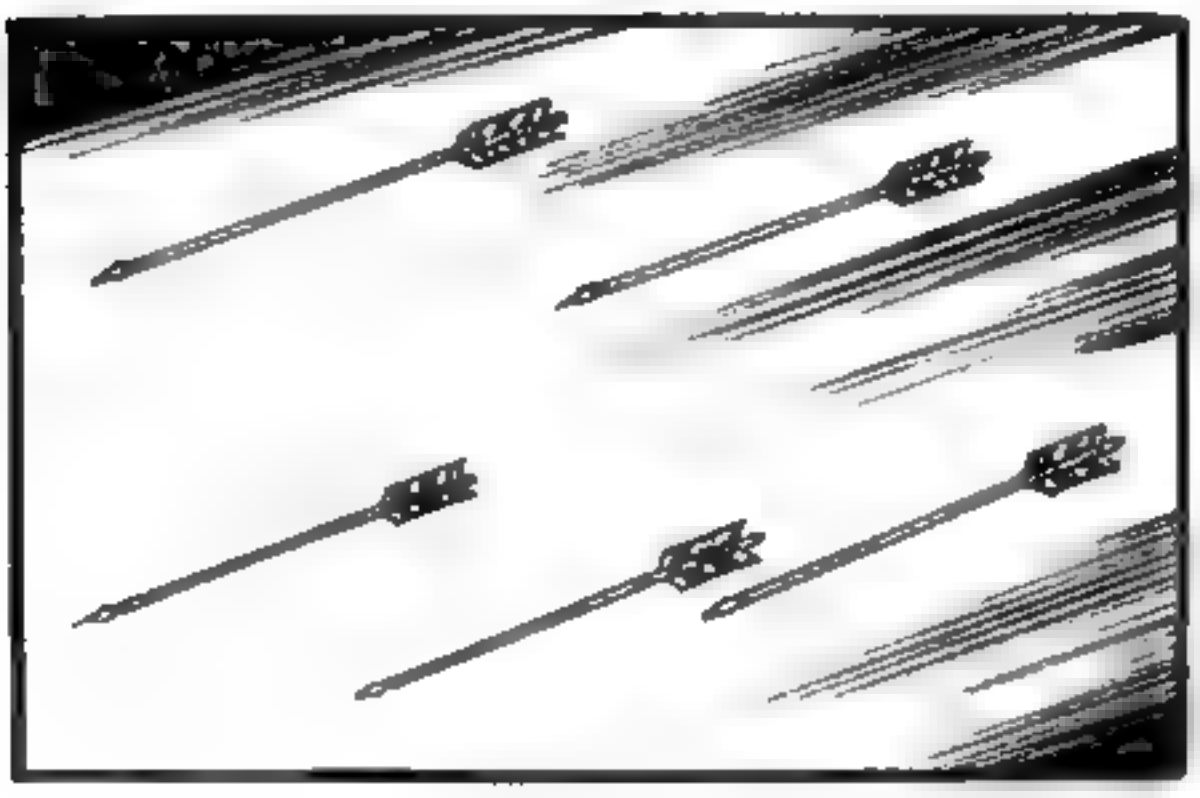

THE ONLY TRAITOR HERE IS YOU!
YOU DESPICABLE TRAITOR!

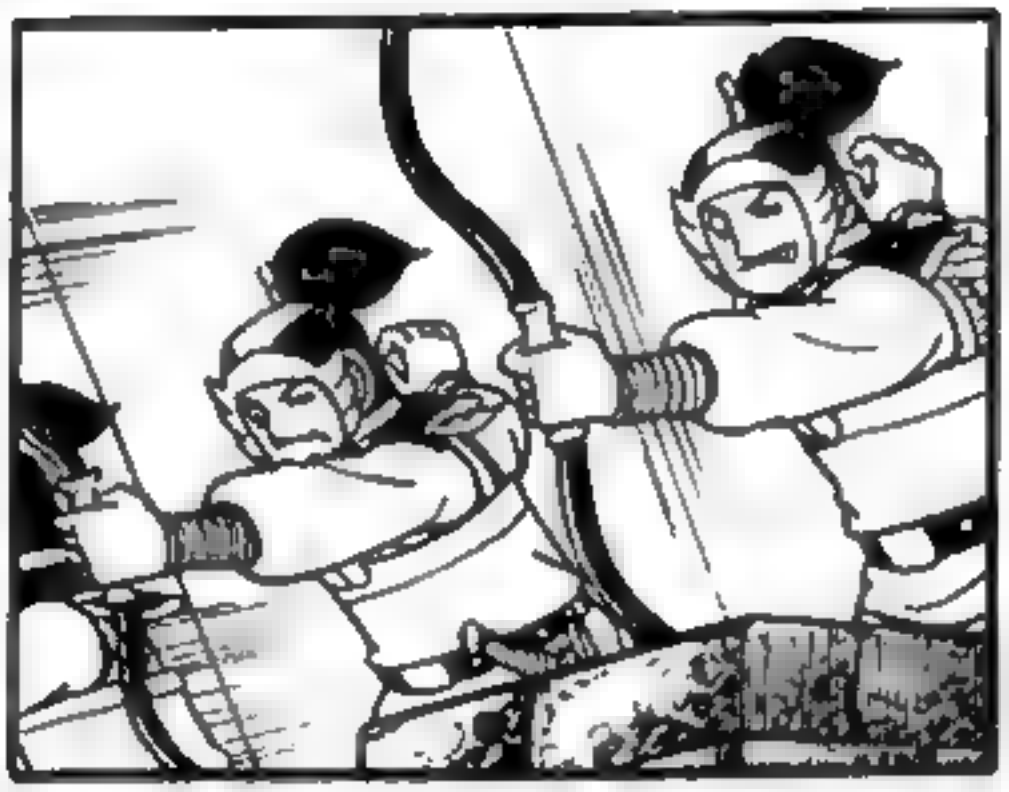

LOWER THE DRAW-BRIDGE!


HM?









STILL A LITTLE SLOW TO REALIZE, MENG DA? LOOK AT THE FLAGS.

WHAT'RE YOU FOOLS DOING!? I'M YOUR GOVERNOR, MENG DA!

*SIMA (司馬) YI

WHAT!?

YOUR NEPHEW AND CONFIDANT WERE ALSO NOT EAGER TO JOIN YOUR REBELLION, AND SECRETLY LET IN SIMA YI'S TROOPS ALREADY.

B-BUT HOW...

NGHH...

EVERYONE HERE IS YOUR ENEMY.


DON'T THINK YOU CAN RUN NOW!





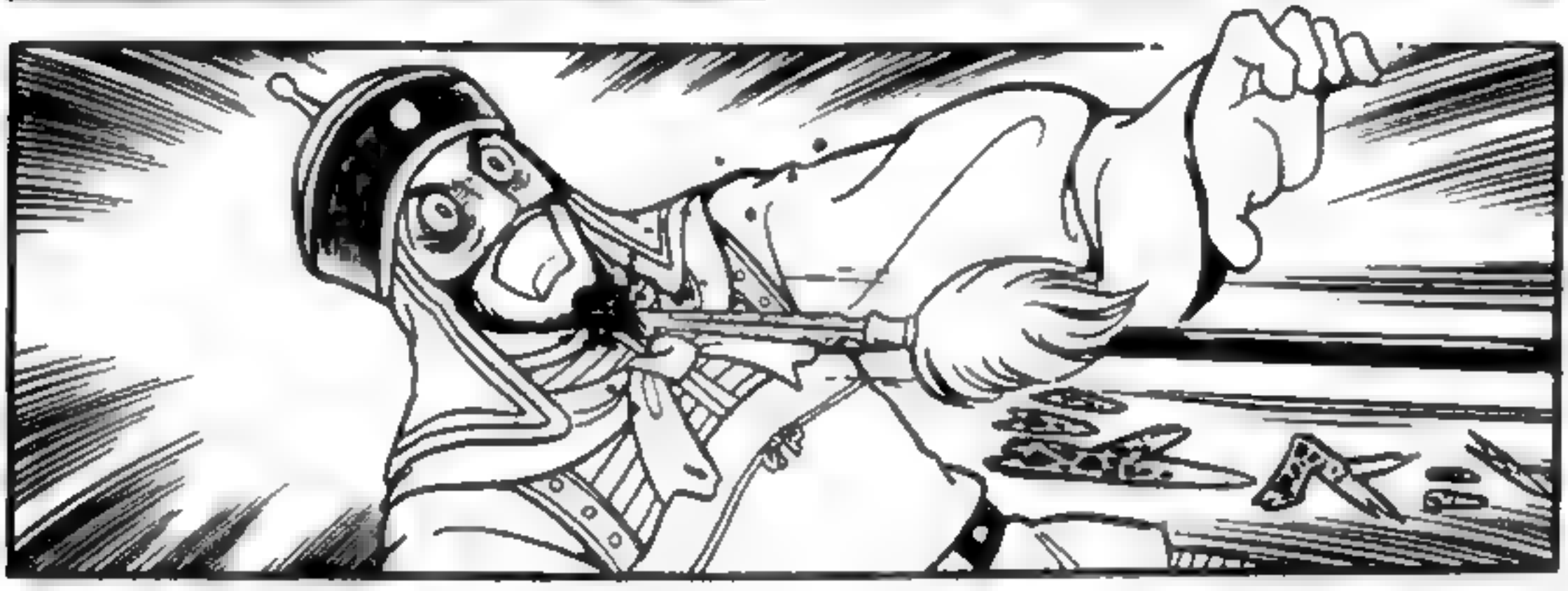









NGHH...




I, SHEN DAN, HAVE SLAIN THE TRAITOR MENG DA!



IF ONLY XU HUANG DID NOT DIE AS WELL... HE COULD'VE RENDERED INVALLABLE SERVICE FOR MANY YEARS TO COME

MENG DA HAS FALLEN, FATHER.

YES.

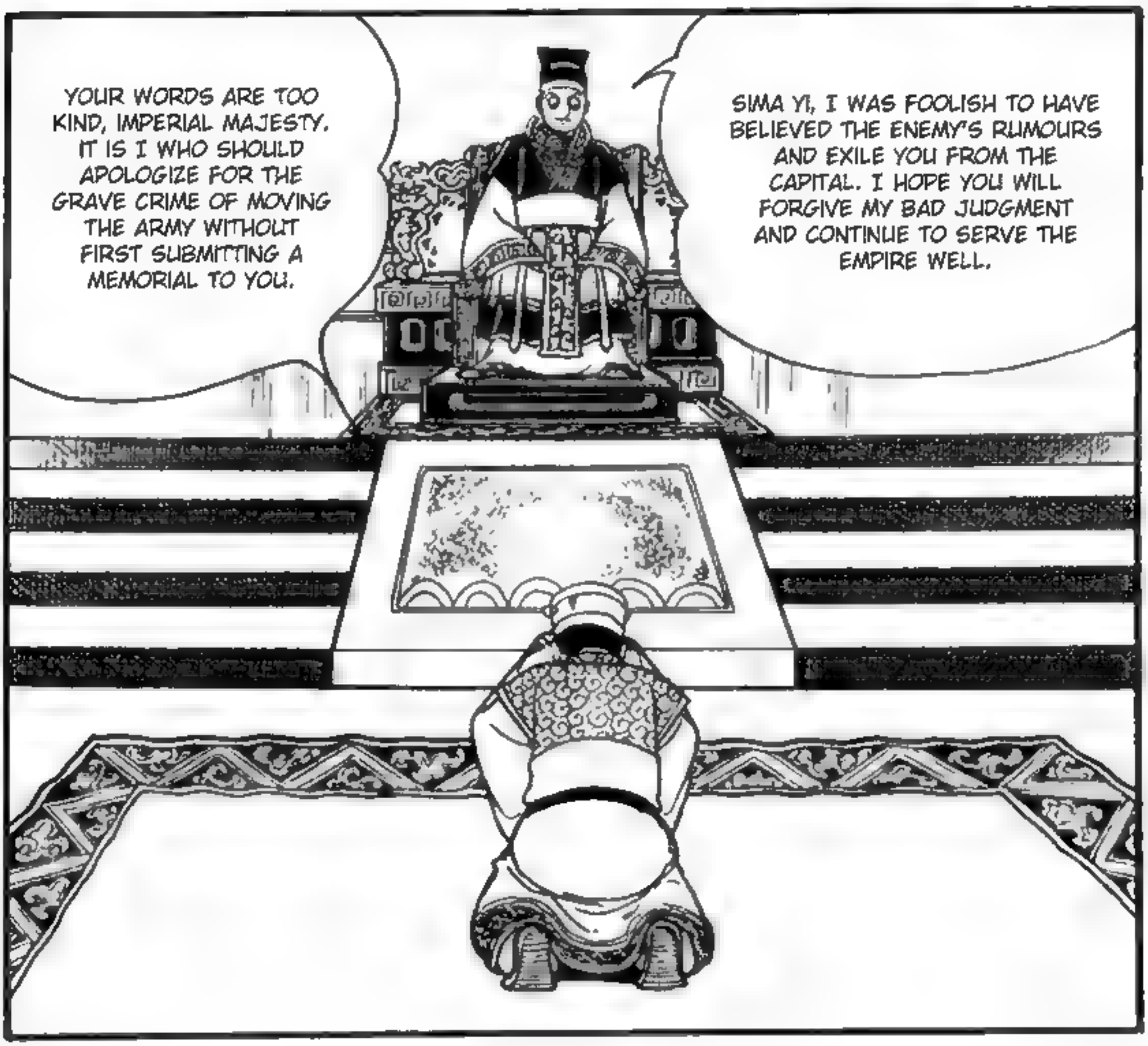
WITH MENG DA DEAD, LUOYANG WILL BE SAFE LET US HEAD TO CHANG'AN NOW.

PERHAPS.

PERHAPS THE HEAVENS DECIDED HIS TIME HAD COME.

AT LAST, SIMA YI TURNED AROUND FOR CHANG'AN


CHANG AN


YOUR WORDS ARE TOO KIND, IMPERIAL MAJESTY. IT IS I WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR THE GRAVE CRIME OF MOVING THE ARMY WITHOUT FIRST SUBMITTING A MEMORIAL TO YOU.
SIMA YI, I WAS FOOLISH TO HAVE BELIEVED THE ENEMY'S RUMOURS AND EXILE YOU FROM THE CAPITAL. I HOPE YOU WILL FORGIVE MY BAD JUDGMENT AND CONTINUE TO SERVE THE EMPIRE WELL.

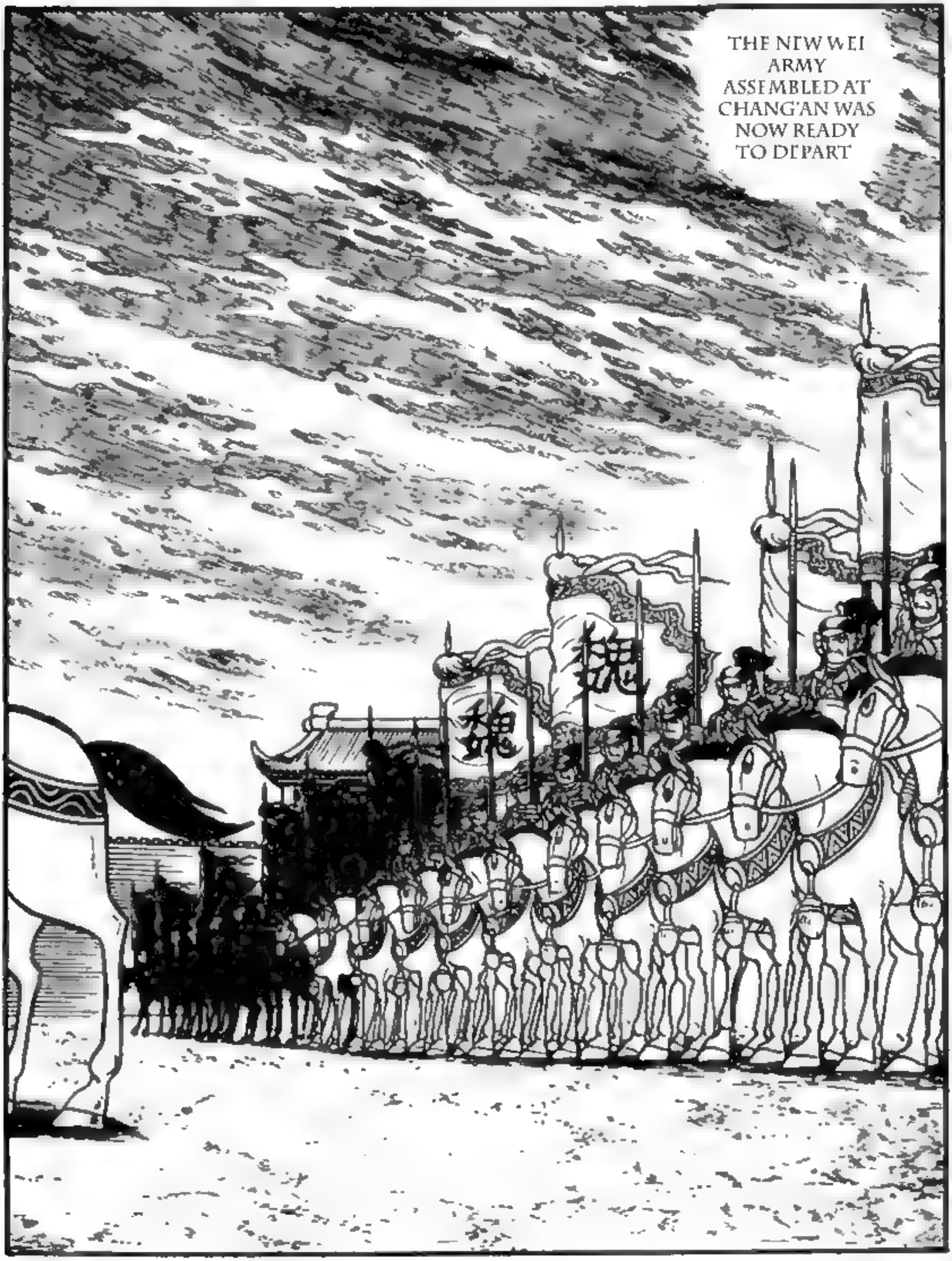
THANK YOU.

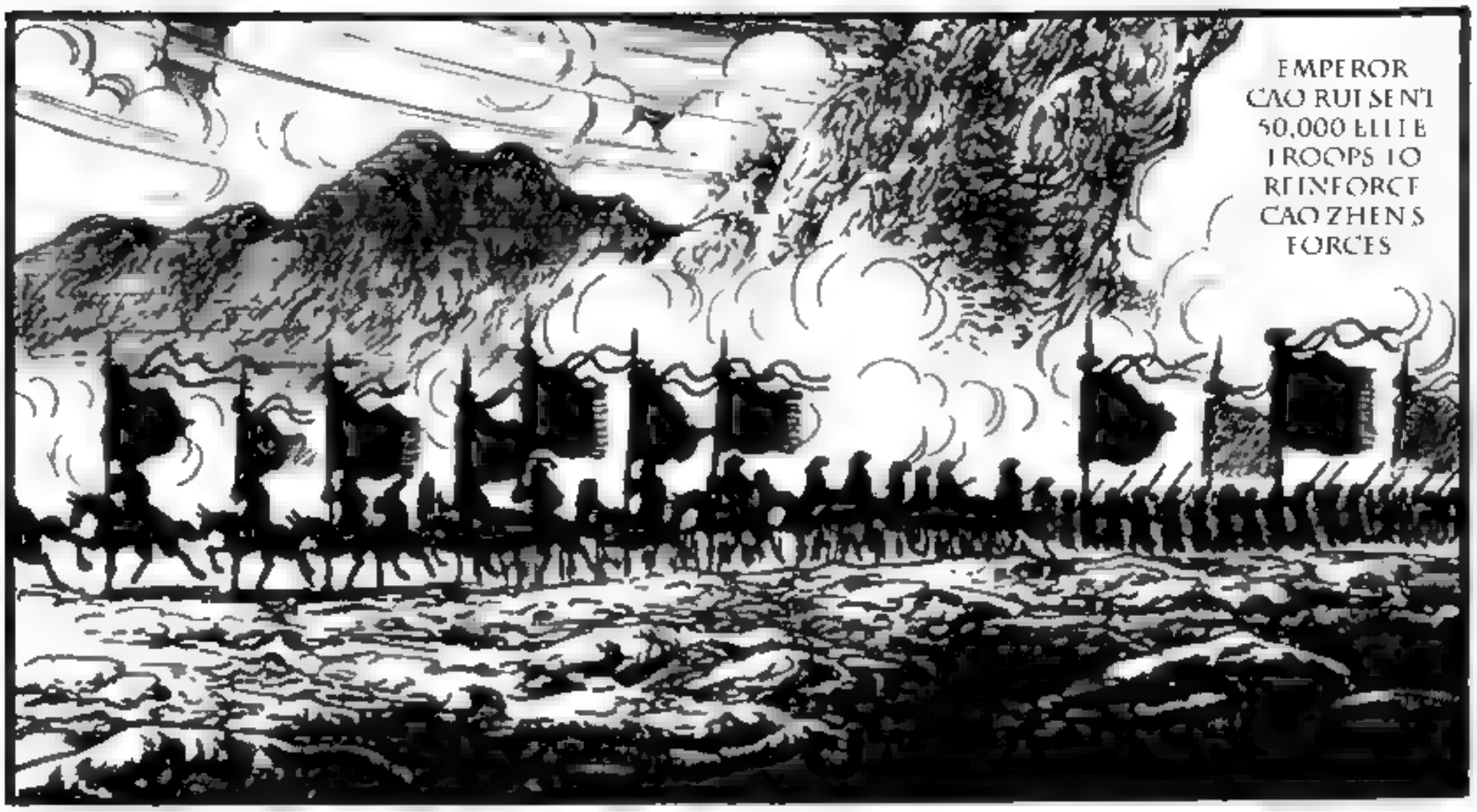
AS SUN TZU EVEN SAID, TROOPS MUST BE DEPLOYED AS SWIFTLY AS POSSIBLE, AND A GENERAL ON THE FIELD MUST SEIZE CHANCES AS THEY COME, EVEN WITHOUT REPORTING TO HIS SOVEREIGN, IF NEED BE.

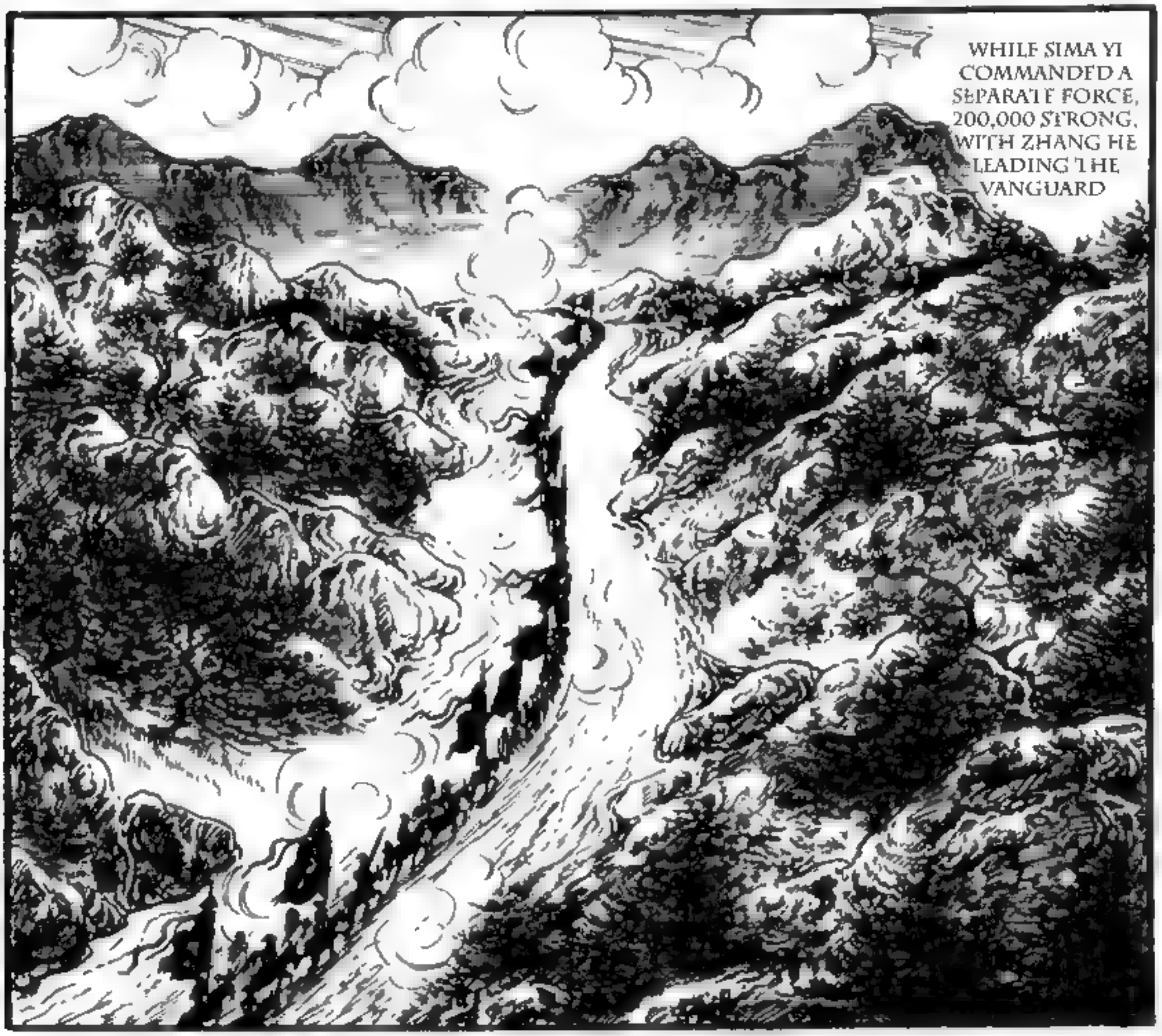
YOU SIMPLY ACTED TO SAVE BOTH LUOYANG AND THE WESTERN FRONTIER FROM FALLING INTO ENEMY HANDS. HOW CAN I PUNISH A SUBJECT FOR HIS LOYAL SERVICE?

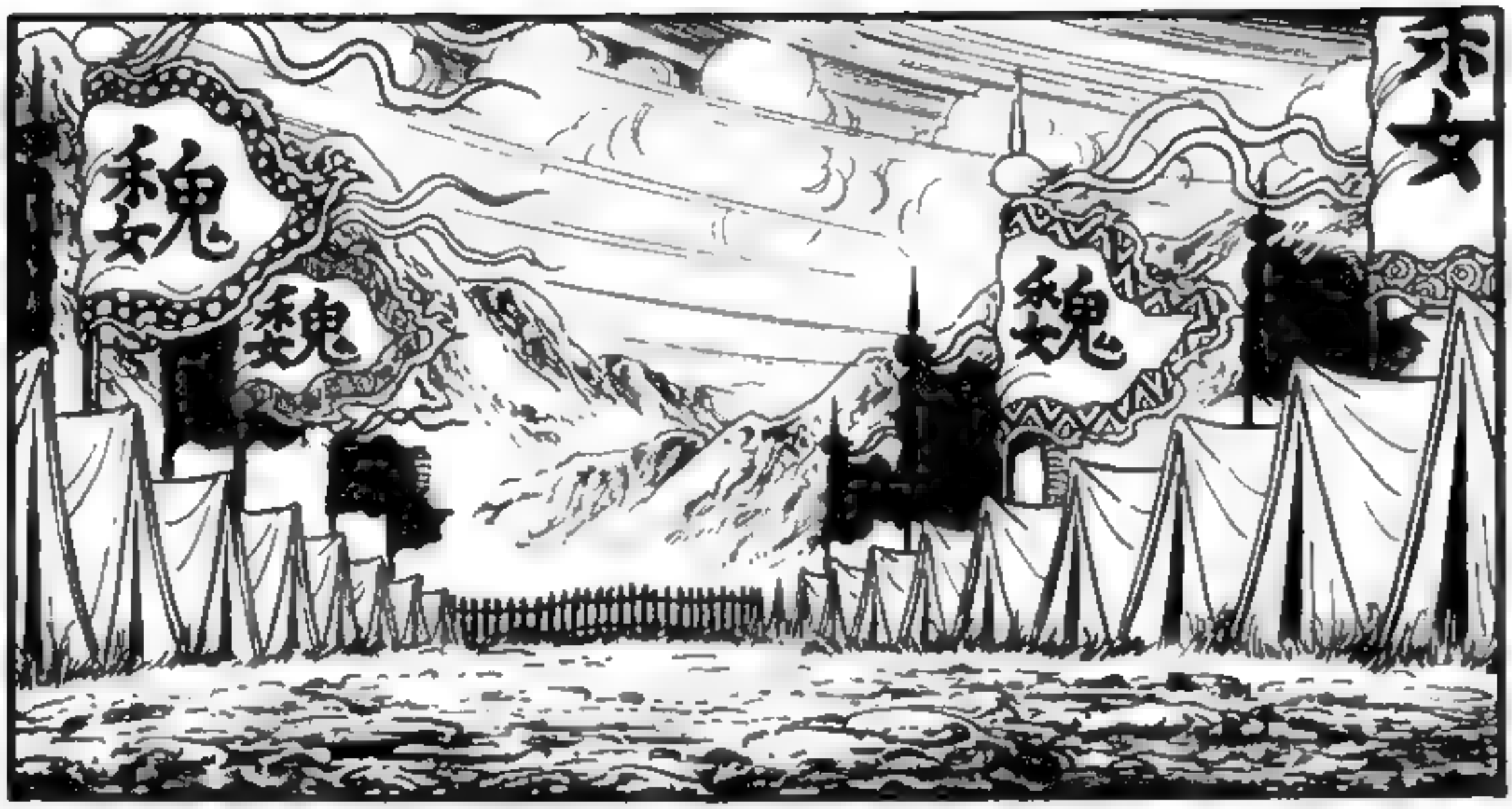
FOR PRE-EMPTIVELY SUPRESSING MENG DA'S REVOLT, SIMA YI WAS GREATLY REWARDED AND HIS INFLUENCE ROSE HIGHER THAN EVER BEFORE

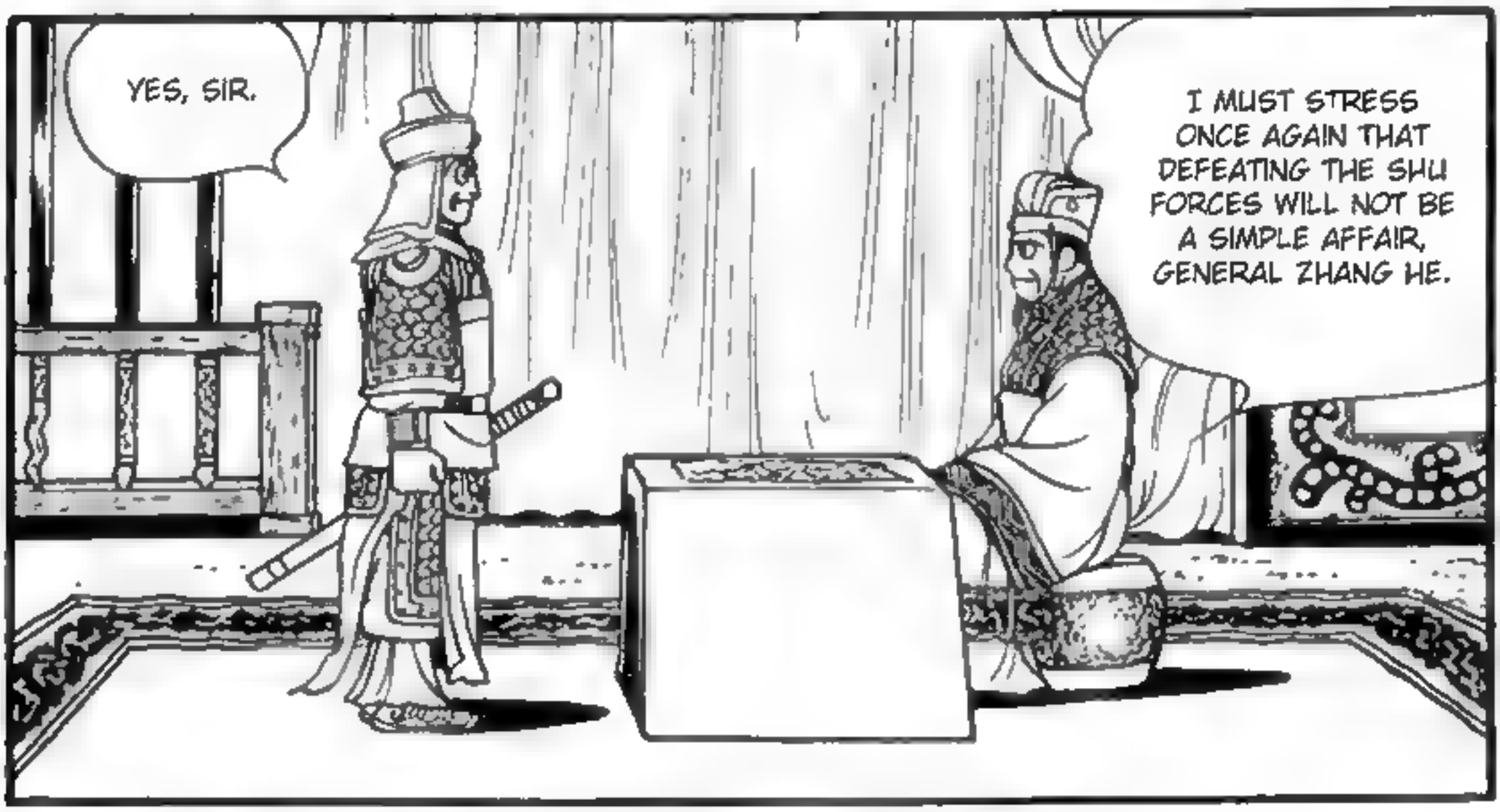
ROAD TO THE DECISIVE BATTLE



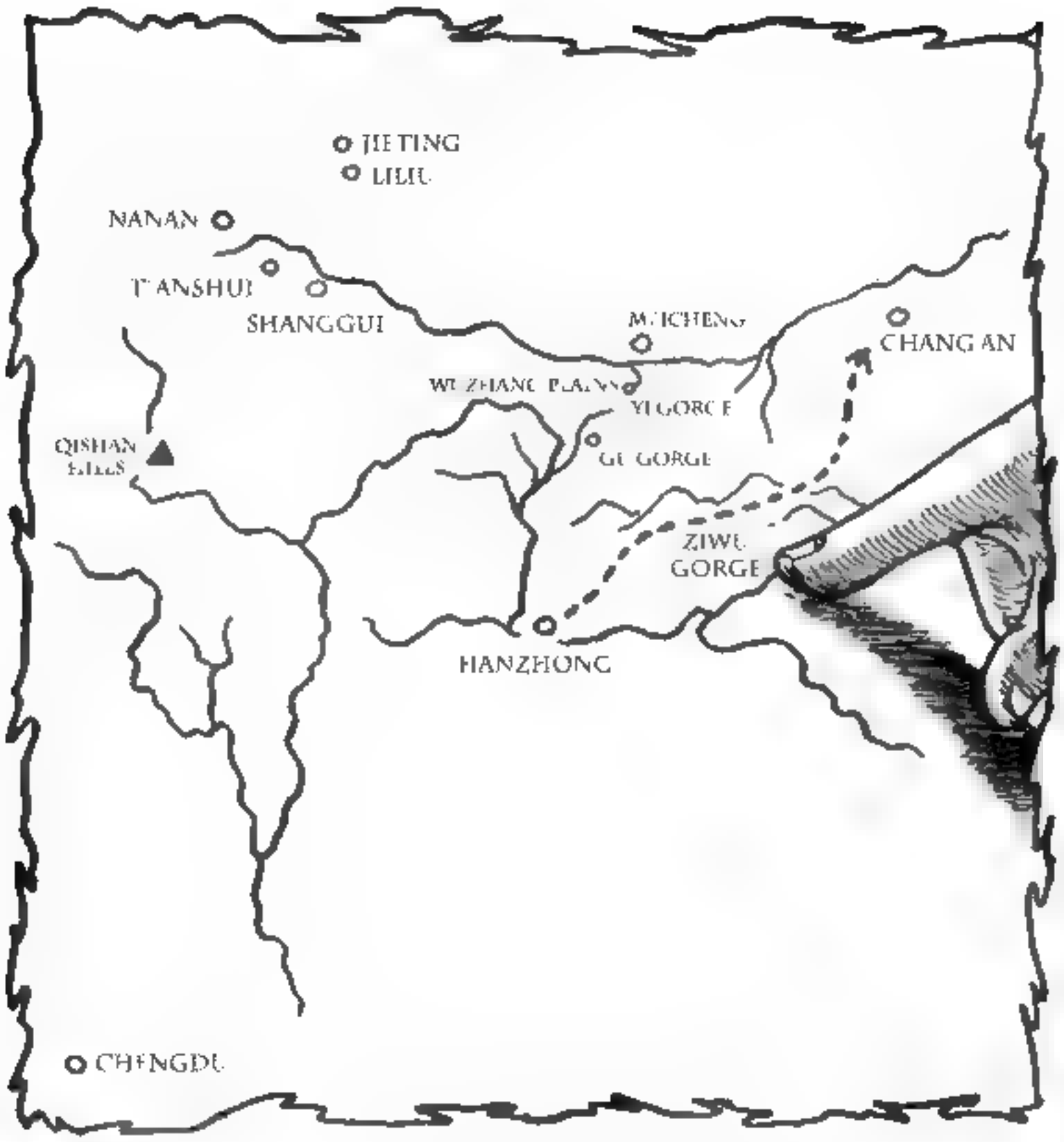

EMPEROR CAO RUI SENT 50,000 ELITE TROOPS TO REINFORCE CAO ZHEN'S FORCES


WHILE SIMA YI COMMANDED A SEPARATE FORCE, 200,000 STRONG, WITH ZHANG HE LEADING THE VANGUARD


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YES, SIR.
I MUST STRESS ONCE AGAIN THAT DEFEATING THE SHU FORCES WILL NOT BE A SIMPLE AFFAIR, GENERAL ZHANG HE.


UNDER-STOOD.
ZHUGE LIANG IS UNDE-NIABLY A HERO OF OUR ERA, FOR HIS SKILL IN WARFARE BORDERS THE SUPERNATURAL REALM. WE MUST NOT ATTACK CARELESSLY, NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.



NOW IF I WERE IN HIS SHOES, I WOULD HAVE ALREADY HEADED THROUGH ZIWU GORGE TO CAPTURE CHANG'AN. ZHUGE LIANG IS NO FOOL AND MUST CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THIS OPTION ALL ALONG.



IF THERE'S ONE THING I CAN BE CERTAIN OF, ZHUGE LIANG NEVER LEAVES BATTLES UP TO CHANCE AND ALWAYS MOVES WITH EXTREME CAUTION.



AND YET HE CHOSE NOT TO DO SO... THAT EITHER MEANS HE'S NOT ENTIRELY CONFIDENT IN HIS KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE LAY OF THE LAND HERE, OR HE DOES NOT WISH TO TAKE THE ADDITIONAL RISK.



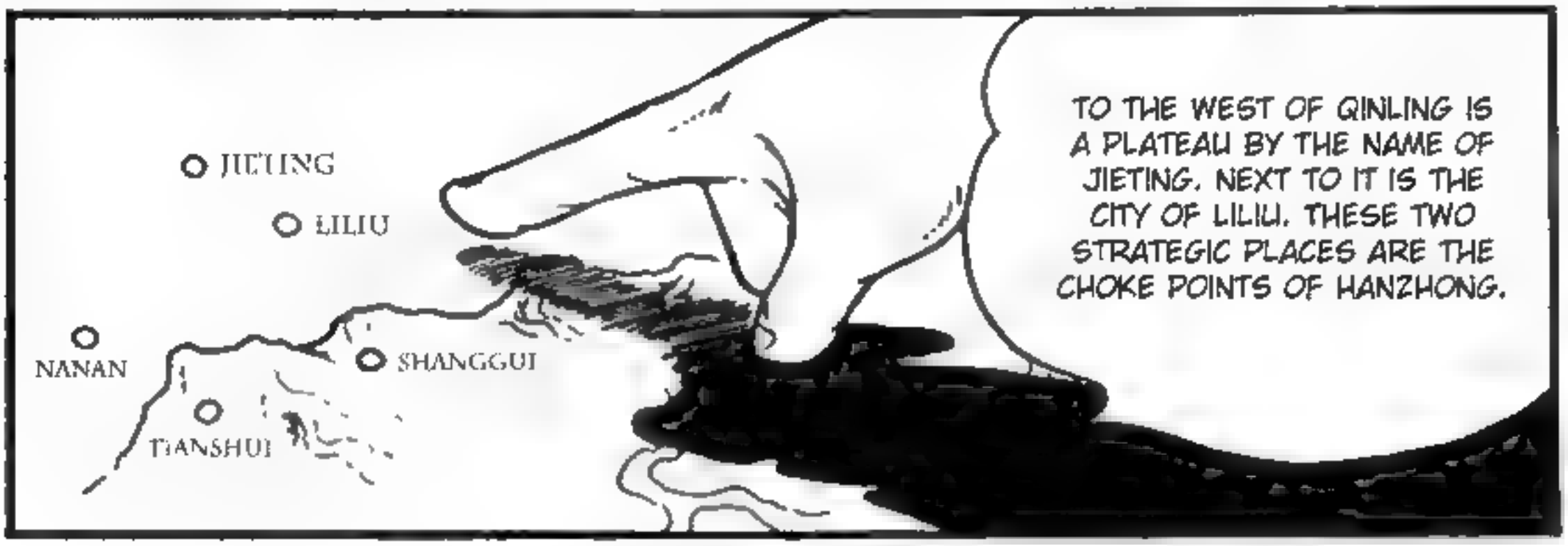
THEY SAY ONLY A HERO CAN UNDERSTAND ANOTHER HERO... SO THIS IS WHAT THE PROVERB MEANT.

THUS, HE WILL INSTEAD FIRST CAPTURE MEICHENG BY HEADING THROUGH THE YI GORGE. ONLY THEN WILL HE DEEM THE SITUATION SAFE TO ADVANCE TO CHANG'AN.

HAHA, YES, THAT WILL BE MY GREATEST SECRET.

AND WHERE WILL YOU BE, SIR?

HENCE, I HAVE ORDERED CAO ZHEN TO DEFEND MEICHENG AND FOR GENERALS SUN LI AND XUN PI TO GO TO THE GU GORGE AND BLOCK ANY ENEMY ADVANCE.



TO THE WEST OF QINLING IS A PLATEAU BY THE NAME OF JIETING. NEXT TO IT IS THE CITY OF LILIU. THESE TWO STRATEGIC PLACES ARE THE CHOKE POINTS OF HANZHONG.

ZHUGE LIANG WILL UNDERESTIMATE CAO ZHEN AND ASSUME HE HAS YET TO SEND TROOPS TO THESE LOCATIONS. BUT THAT IS EXACTLY WHERE WE WILL GO.

YES, AND HE WILL BE UNABLE TO SECURE THE WHOLE REGION OF LONGXI. WE WILL FORCE HIM TO BITTERLY RETREAT BACK TO HANZHONG.

AHH, IF WE TAKE JIETING, HIS SUPPLY ROUTES WILL BE CUT OFF!

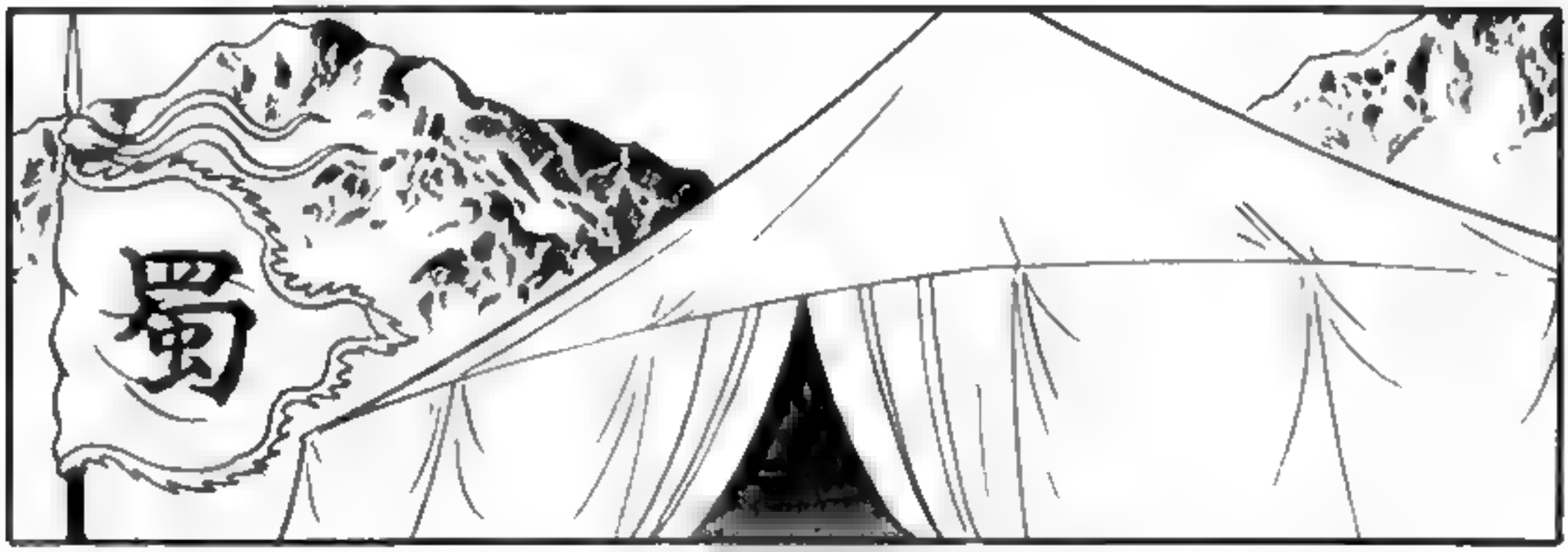
FROM NOW ON, SCOUTS MUST BE SENT 10 LI AHEAD FOR EVERY 1 LI OUR ARMY ADVANCES. YOU MUST ALWAYS KEEP THE THREAT OF AN ENEMY AMBUSH IN MIND.

A MARVELOUS PLAN, SIR. IT'S TAILOR-MADE TO BEAT EVEN THE WILY ZHUGE LIANG.

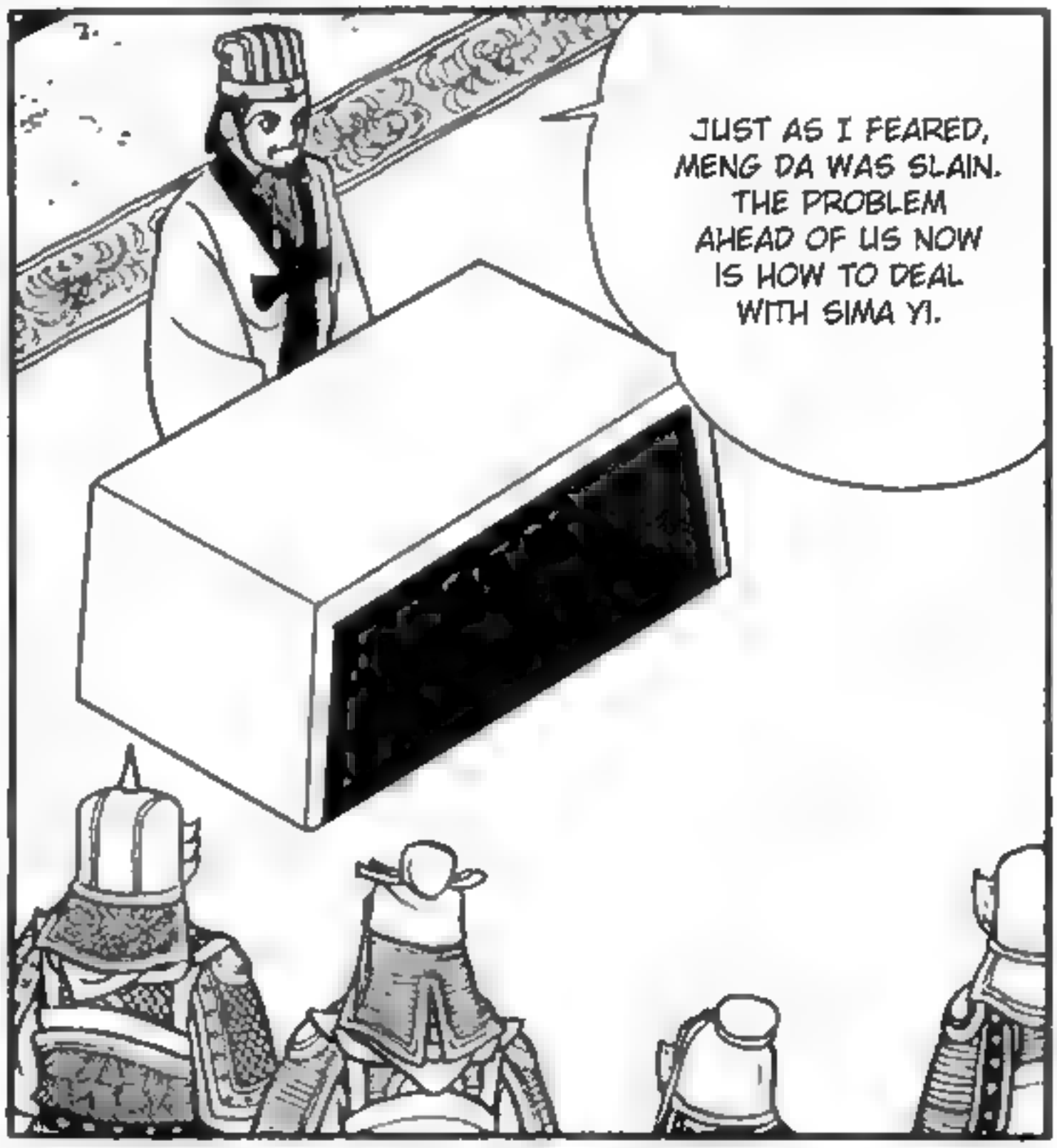
MERELY SETTING A PLAN IS NO CAUSE FOR CELEBRATIONS. REMEMBER WHO WE'RE UP AGAINST, ZHANG HE.

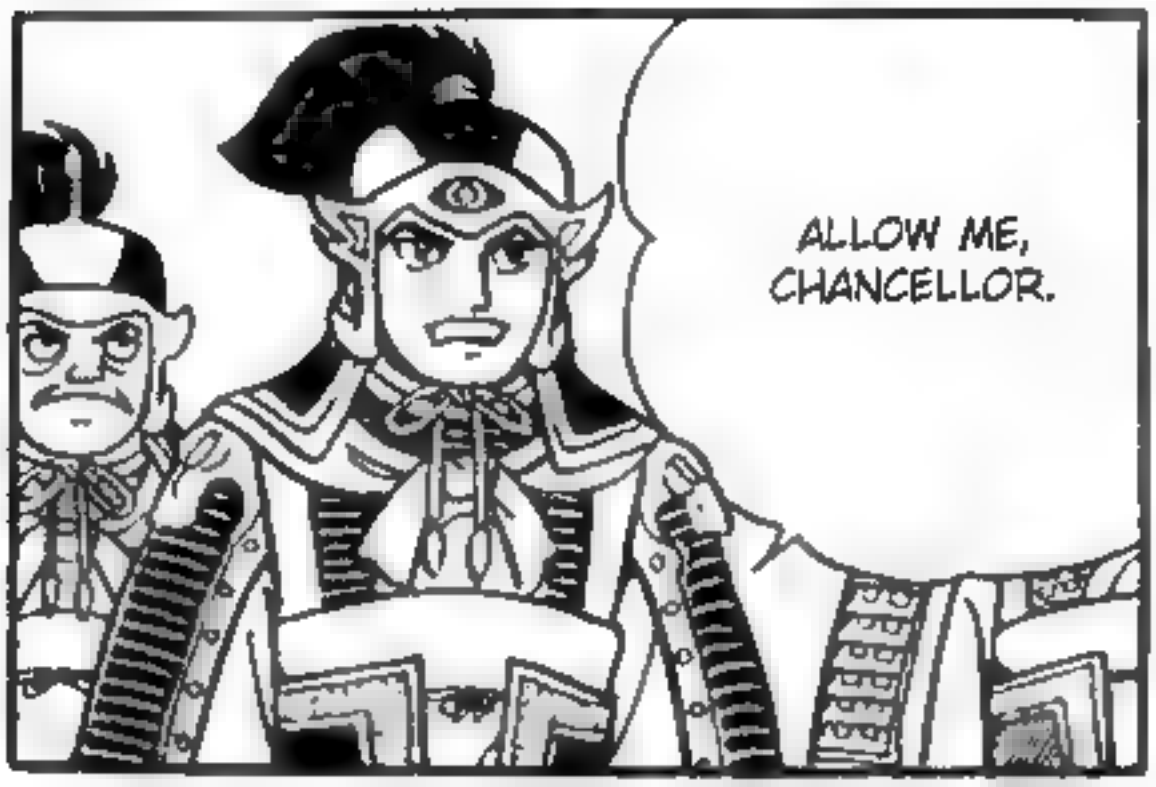

MEANWHILE A MESSENGER QUICKLY RODE BACK TO KONGMING IN QISHAN HILLS

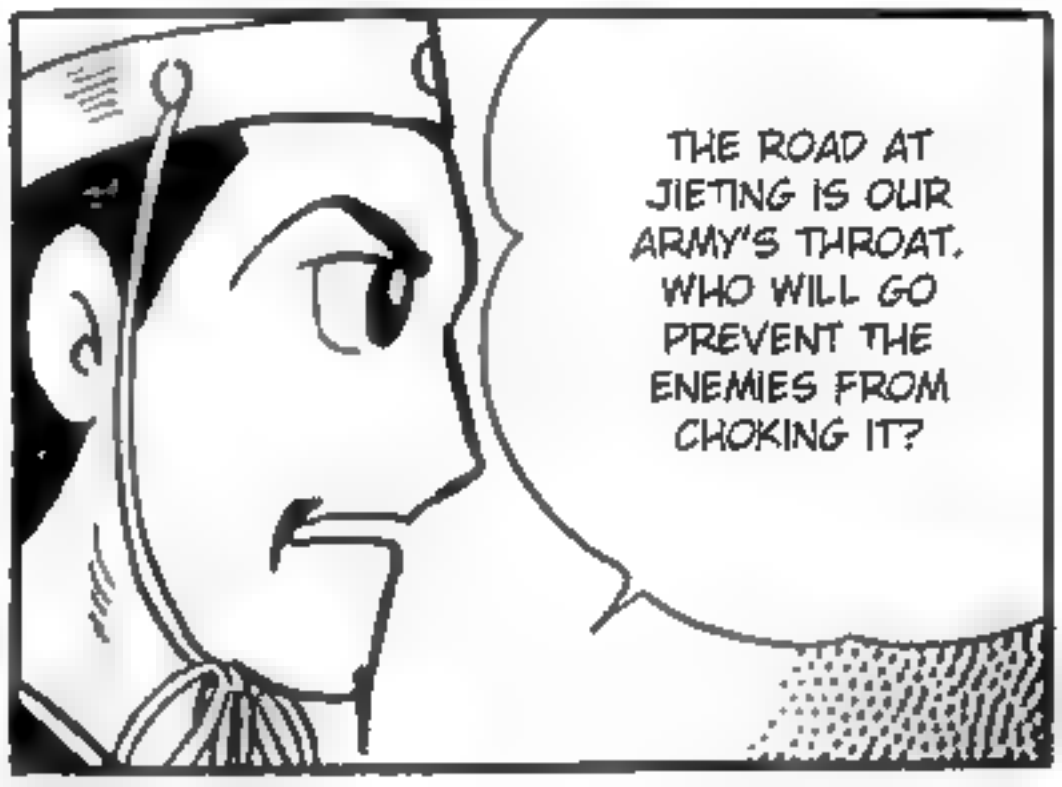

THE WHOLE WESTERN FRONT OF WEI WAS NOW TRANSFORMING INTO THE PENULTIMATE BATTLEFIELD TO DECIDE THE FATE OF TWO EMPIRES
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SIMA YI WILL LIKELY SET HIS SIGHTS ON JIETING, FOR IT IS THE CHOKEPOINT OF OUR SUPPLY ROUTES. IF HE TAKES IT, WE WILL NOT HAVE ENOUGH FOOD TO SUPPORT OUR ENTIRE FORCES FOR EVEN A MONTH.


JUST AS I FEARED, MENG DA WAS SLAIN. THE PROBLEM AHEAD OF US NOW IS HOW TO DEAL WITH SIMA YI.


ALLOW ME, CHANCELLOR.


THE ROAD AT JIETING IS OUR ARMY'S THROAT. WHO WILL GO PREVENT THE ENEMIES FROM CHOKING IT?

I HAVE SPENT MUCH TIME LEARNING ABOUT WARFARE FROM YOU, CHANCELLOR. I SEEK A CHANCE TO PUT MY SKILLS TO TEST.

AH, MA SU...

PLEASE GIVE ME THIS OPPORTUNITY, CHANCELLOR. IF I CANNOT DEFEND EVEN A SINGLE PLACE, WHAT SERVICE OF IMPORTANCE COULD I POSSIBLY RENDER TO OUR EMPIRE?

HMM...

IF I FAIL, I AM MORE THAN PREPARED TO ACCEPT EVEN THE HARSHEST PUNISHMENT WITHOUT REGRET.

MA SU LIKE HIS BROTHER MA LIANG, WAS KNOWN FOR HIS SHARP INTELLECT SINCE HIS CHILDHOOD. KONGMING, TOO, VALUED HIS TALENTS AND THOUGHT HIGHLY OF HIS POTENTIAL.

THANK YOU, SIR.

VERY WELL, I WILL GRANT YOUR REQUEST. HOWEVER, TAKE WANG PING AS YOUR SECOND IN COMMAND.

YES, SIR.

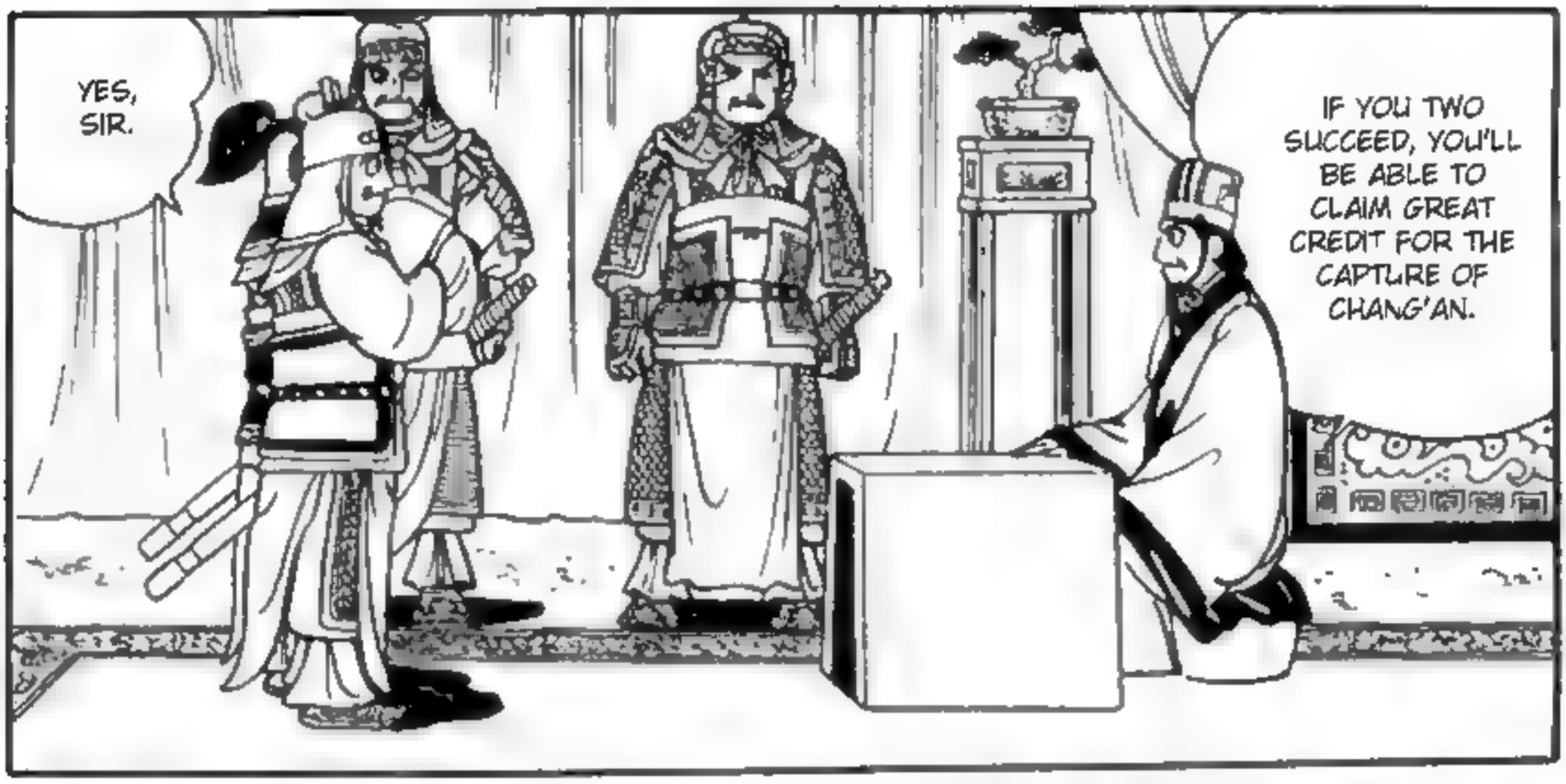
YOU HAVE ALWAYS PROVED PRUDENT IN THE PAST, SO I ASSIGN YOU TO THIS IMPORTANT MISSION. EXCERCISE CAUTION AT ALL TIMES.

WANG PING.

YES?

UNDER-STOOD.

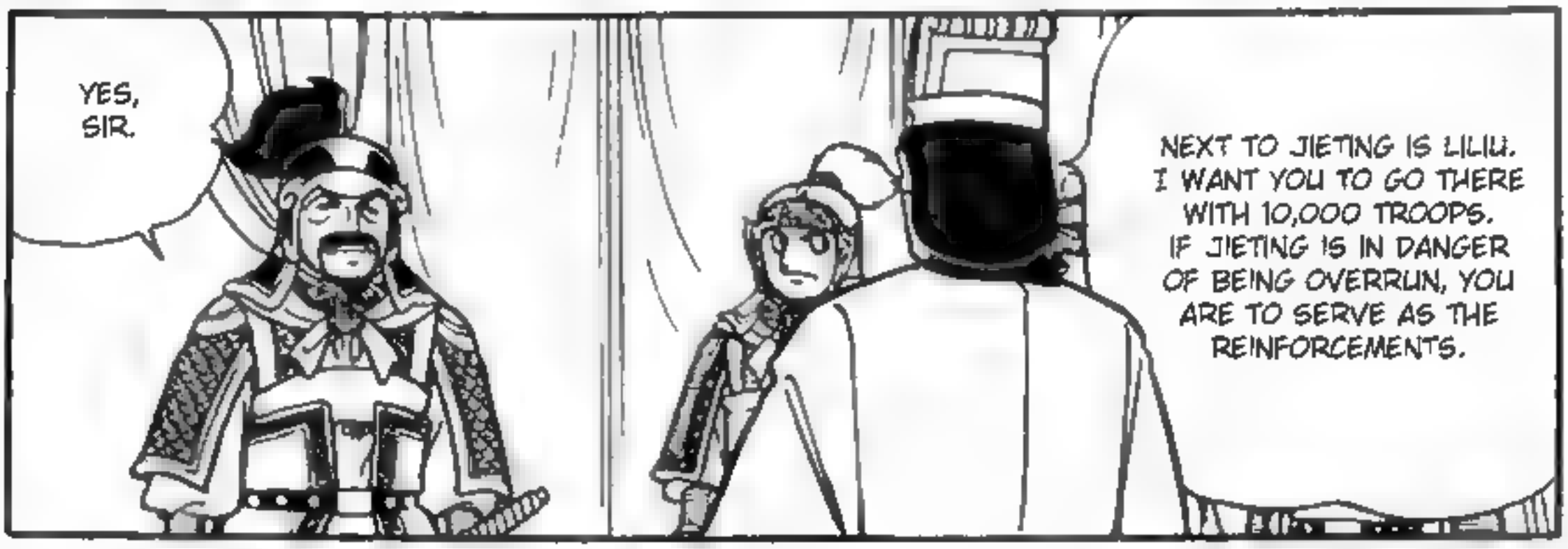
UPON YOUR ARRIVAL AT JIETING, IMMEDIATELY PLACE TROOPS IN KEY LOCATIONS TO PREVENT ENEMY TROOPS FROM PASSING THROUGH. AFTER SECURING THE AREA, SEND A DRAWING OF YOUR POSITION AND THE SURROUNDING TERRAIN FOR ME TO CONFIRM.

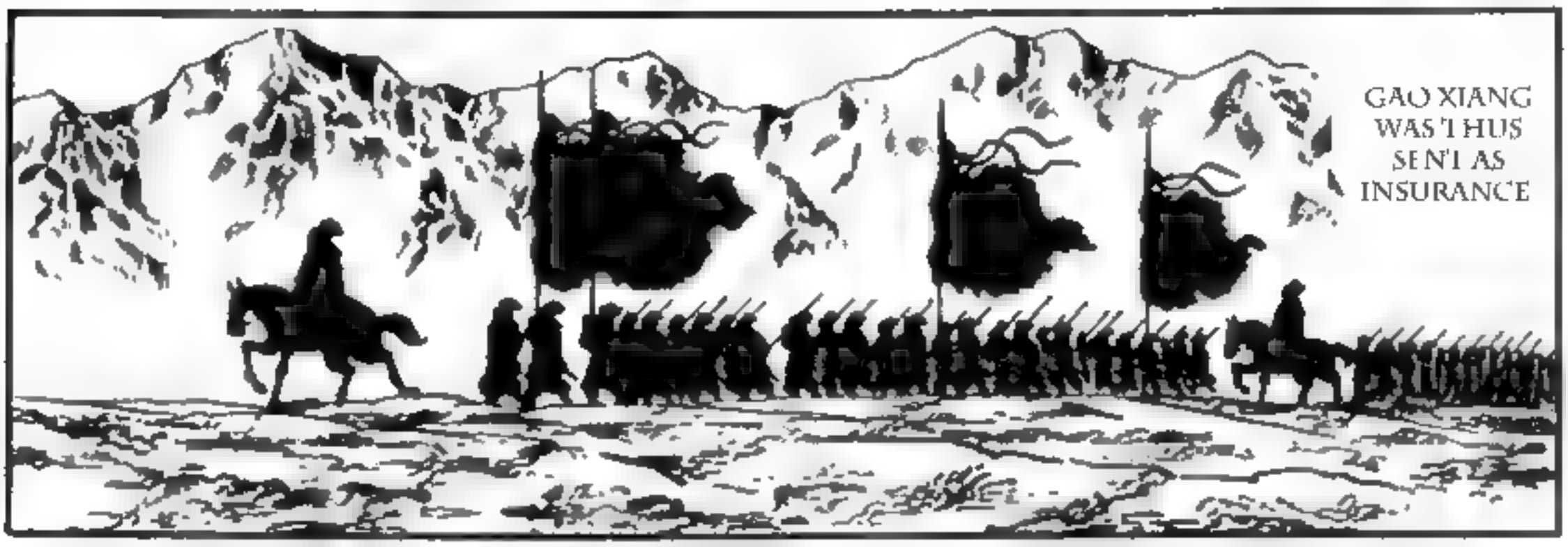

YES, SIR.
IF YOU TWO SUCCEED, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CLAIM GREAT CREDIT FOR THE CAPTURE OF CHANG'AN.


IN HIGH SPIRITS MA SU LED A FORCE OF 25 000 TROOPS TO JIETING
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GAO XIANG!
YES?


HOWEVER, KONGMING COULD NOT STOP WORRYING FOR SOME REASON


YES, SIR.
NEXT TO JIETING IS LILIU. I WANT YOU TO GO THERE WITH 10,000 TROOPS. IF JIETING IS IN DANGER OF BEING OVERRUN, YOU ARE TO SERVE AS THE REINFORCEMENTS.


GAO XIANG WAS THUS SENT AS INSURANCE

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YES, SIMPLY CAMP THERE AND ATTACK THE ENEMIES IF THEY WERE TO GET PAST JIETING.

WHAT!? YOU WANT ME TO GO PROTECT THE REAR OF JIETING!?

TRUE, SERVING IN THE VANGUARD IS A HIGH HONOUR FOR ANY OFFICER.

I AM ALREADY ASSIGNED TO THE VANGUARD AND I HAVE NO COMPLAINTS DYING ON THE FRONTLINES OF BATTLE. WHY MUST I GO ALL THE WAY WHERE THERE WILL BE LITTLE, IF ANY, ACTION?

BUT THE REINFORCEMENT OF JIETING SERVES TO PROTECT THE ROUTE TO YANGPING PASS, THEREBY DEFENDING THE CHOKEPOINTS OF HANZHONG. VANGUARD SERVICE IS A TRIFLING MATTER COMPARED TO THIS TASK OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE.

YES, I TRUST YOU'LL DO YOUR DUTY.

FORGIVE MY STUBBORNNESS. I ACCEPT MY NEW ASSIGNMENT.

WE CAN NO LONGER ATTACK AS AGGRESSIVELY, NOW THAT WE'RE UP AGAINST SIMA YI. THINGS WILL BE MUCH MORE COMPLICATED.

YES?

ZHAO ZILONG AND DENG ZHI.

YES, SIR.

MEANWHILE, I WILL TAKE OUR MAIN ARMY THROUGH THE YE GORGE AND CAPTURE MEICHENG.

YOU TWO WILL LEAD THE ARMY TO THE GU GORGE TO SERVE AS A FEINT. ALTERNATE BETWEEN ENGAGING THE ENEMIES AND FALLING BACK SO AS TO KEEP THE ENEMIES GUESSING ABOUT YOUR OBJECTIVE.

WE WILL KEEP THE BULK OF THE ENEMIES OFF YOUR BACK, SIR.

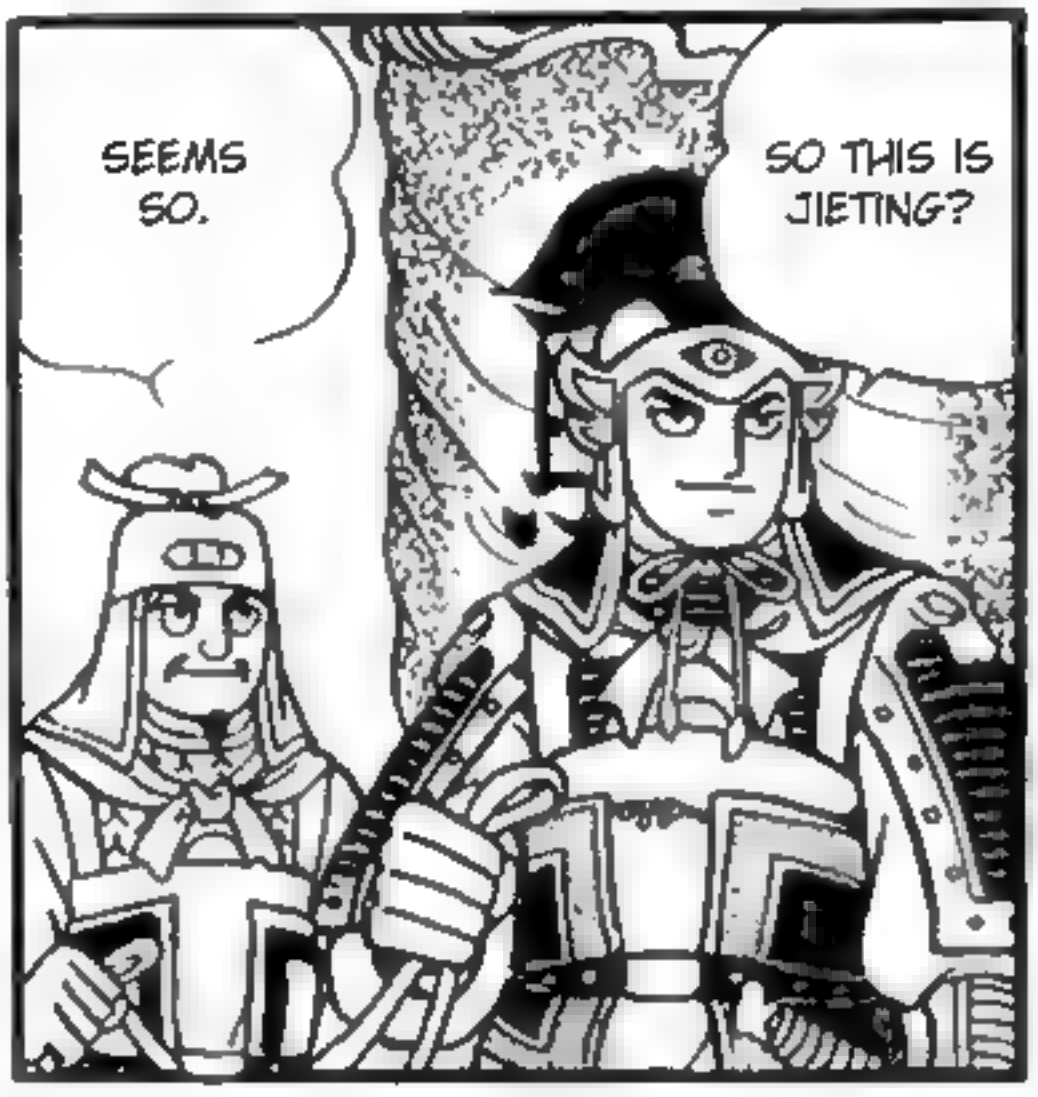
AND SO, ZHAO ZILONG AND DENG ZHI HEADED TO THE GU GORGE WHILE KONGMING HEADED TO THE YE GORGE

BOTH KONGMING AND SIMA YI HAD NOW BEGUN TO EXECUTE THEIR STRATEGY TO DEFEAT EACH OTHER

MA SU'S MISJUDGEMENT







WHAT IS SO HUMOROUS?

HAHAHA...

I JUST THOUGHT IT A LITTLE HUMOROUS ABOUT HOW MUCH THE CHANCELLOR WORRIED OVER THIS PLACE. IT'S COVERED IN HILLS ALL OVER AND THE ONLY PATHS AVAILABLE ARE SO NARROW THEY CAN LET JUST ONE OR TWO PEOPLE THROUGH AT A TIME. I CAN SCARCELY IMAGINE THE WEI TRYING TO SEND A LARGE ARMY THROUGH HERE.

ON THE HILLS?

ALRIGHT, LET'S SET UP CAMP ON THAT HILLS OVER THERE.




THE CHANCELLOR TOLD US OUR OBJECTIVE WAS TO NOT LET A SINGLE WEI SOLDIER PASS THROUGH JIETING. IF WE SET UP BARRICADES AND A FORTIFIED CAMP RIGHT ON TOP OF THE ROADS, WE CAN SURELY ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION. IF WE CAMP ON THE HILLS, HOWEVER, THERE'S A CHANCE THAT THE WEI ARMY MIGHT SURROUND THE ENTIRE HILL AND ISOLATE US.


WHAT!?
YOUR THOUGHTS ARE SO SIMPLE, LIKE A WOMAN OR A CHILD.


DO YOU NOT THINK THAT THOSE REINFORCEMENTS SIMPLY GO TO SHOW HOW IMPORTANT THE CHANCELLOR THINKS OF THIS PLACE?
MOREOVER, GAO XIANG IS IN LILIU AND WEI YAN WILL SOON ARRIVE TO OUR REAR TO REINFORCE US IF NEEDED. WHAT ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF?


HAVE YOU NEVER HEARD THE IMPORTANCE OF HIGHER GROUND IN BATTLE? THE MILITARY MANUALS OFTEN SAY THAT IF AN ARMY LOOKS DOWN FROM HIGHER GROUND WHILE FIGHTING, THE ENEMY CAN BE REPULSED AS EASILY AS AN AXE SWINGING DOWNWARDS TO CLEAVE WOOD. IF THE WEI ARMY WISHES TO FIGHT US UPHILL, THEN LET THEM.


WE SHOULD PLAY IT SAFE AND BLOCK OFF ALL ROADS.

NO, THERE ARE MANY SMALL PATHS THROUGH THE HILLS HERE. IF WE CAMP UP ON THE HILLS, THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN BLOCK OFF ALL THE ROADS. WHAT WILL WE DO IF THE ENEMY WERE TO SURPRISE US BY MEANS OF A SECRET PATH?

DON'T WORRY, WE CAN ALWAYS COME DOWN AND ATTACK THE ENEMIES WHEN WE SEE THEM APPROACHING.

SOOO...?

PLACING ALL OF OUR TROOPS IN ONE PLACE IS TOO RISKY. AT LEAST GRANT ME 5000 SOLDIERS TO CAMP AT ANOTHER PLACE.

ARE YOU SAYING YOU WILL NOT FOLLOW MY ORDERS?

FINE, FINE, DO AS YOU WISH THEN!

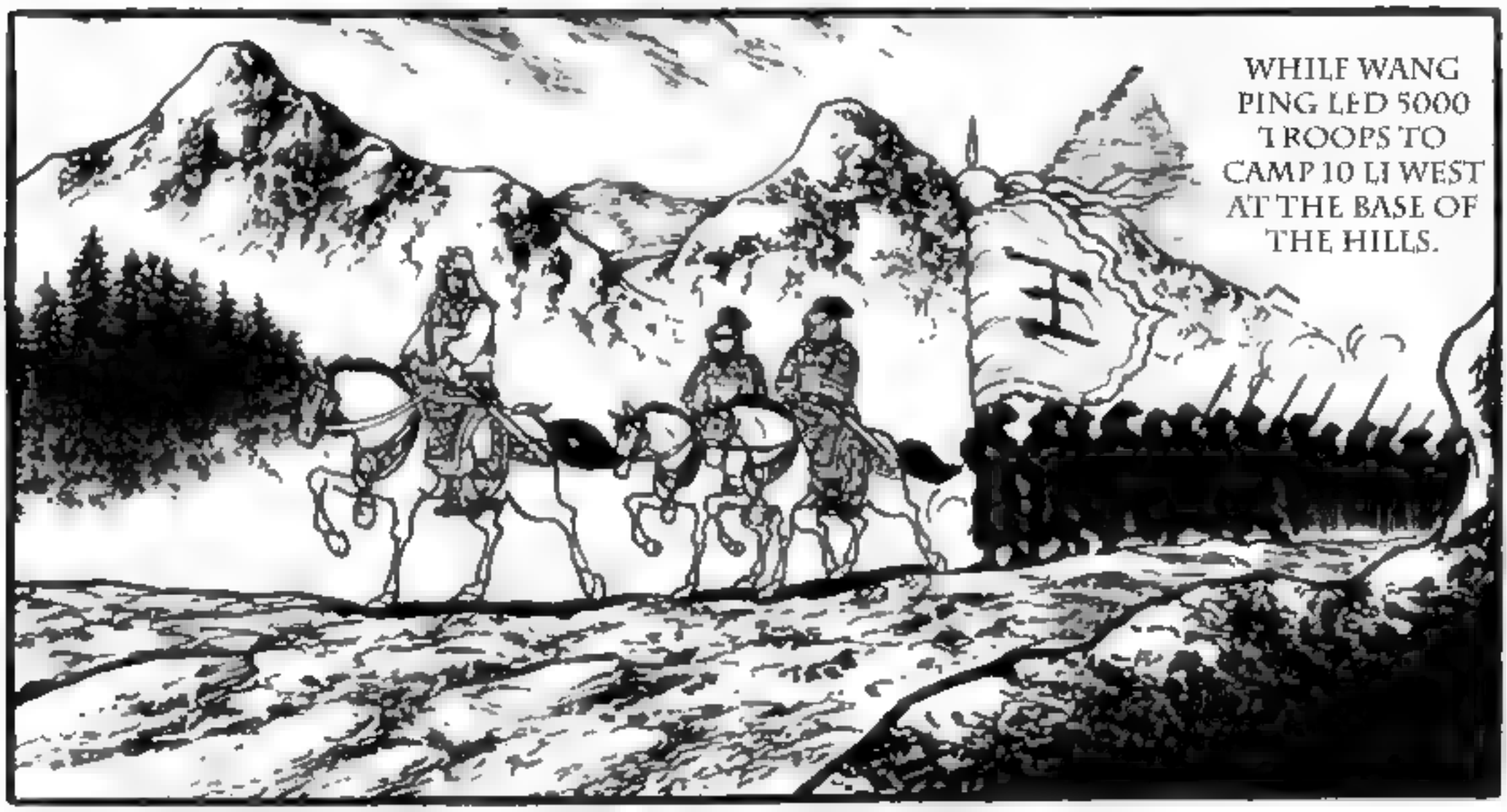
IF THE WEI ARMY WERE TO SURROUND YOUR CAMP ON THE HILLS, THEN MY 5000 TROOPS CAN ATTACK FROM THE REAR TO BREAK OFF THEIR ENCIRCLEMENT.

VERY WELL...

BUT IF I BEAT THE ENEMIES ON MY OWN, DON'T EXPECT THAT YOU CAN CLAIM CREDIT FOR HOLDING JIETING.


THUS, MA SU CAMPED 20,000 MEN ON THE HILLTOPS.


MA SU IS TOO EAGER TO BEAT THE ENEMIES AND WIN MERITS.


WHILE WANG PING LED 5000 TROOPS TO CAMP 10 LI WEST AT THE BASE OF THE HILLS.

YES, FATHER.

ZHAO, MY SON, GO AHEAD AND SEE IF THERE ARE ANY SHU TROOPS AT JIETING. I DOUBT THERE WILL BE ANY ALREADY BUT IF YOU SEE THEM, TELL ZHANG HE AND THE VANGUARD TO STOP THEIR ADVANCE.






HM?


SIR, THERE ARE SHU TROOPS UP AHEAD.


YES, SIR.
TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THEIR LOCATIONS.


THEY'RE ALREADY HERE IN JIETING...!?





YES, SIR.

WHAT!? SHU FORCES HAVE ALREADY SECURED JIETING!?

HE IS INHUMAN...! I CANNOT POSSIBLY BEAT HIM...

TO HAVE YOUR HANDS ALREADY HERE, ZHUGE LIANG...

DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF NOW, ZHAO.

I AM NOT BEING OVERCON-FIDENT.

WHAT!?

FATHER, WHY ARE YOU SO DESPOND-ENT? FROM WHAT I SAW, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO EASILY TAKE JIETING.

THEY HAVEN'T BLOCKED OFF THE ROADS!?

MY SCOUTS SAW THEY ONLY HAD A COUPLE THOUSAND MEN AT THE BASE OF THE HILLS WHILE THEIR REMAINING FORCES WERE CAMPED ALL ON THE HILLTOPS. MANY OF THE ROADS HAVE NOT BEEN BLOCKED OFF.


I REFUSE TO BELIEVE THIS UNTIL I SEE THEIR CAMPS FOR MYSELF.


PERHAPS?
HOW CAN THIS POSSIBLY BE? ARE THEY BAITING US TO TAKE THE ROADS?


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UP THERE, FATHER!

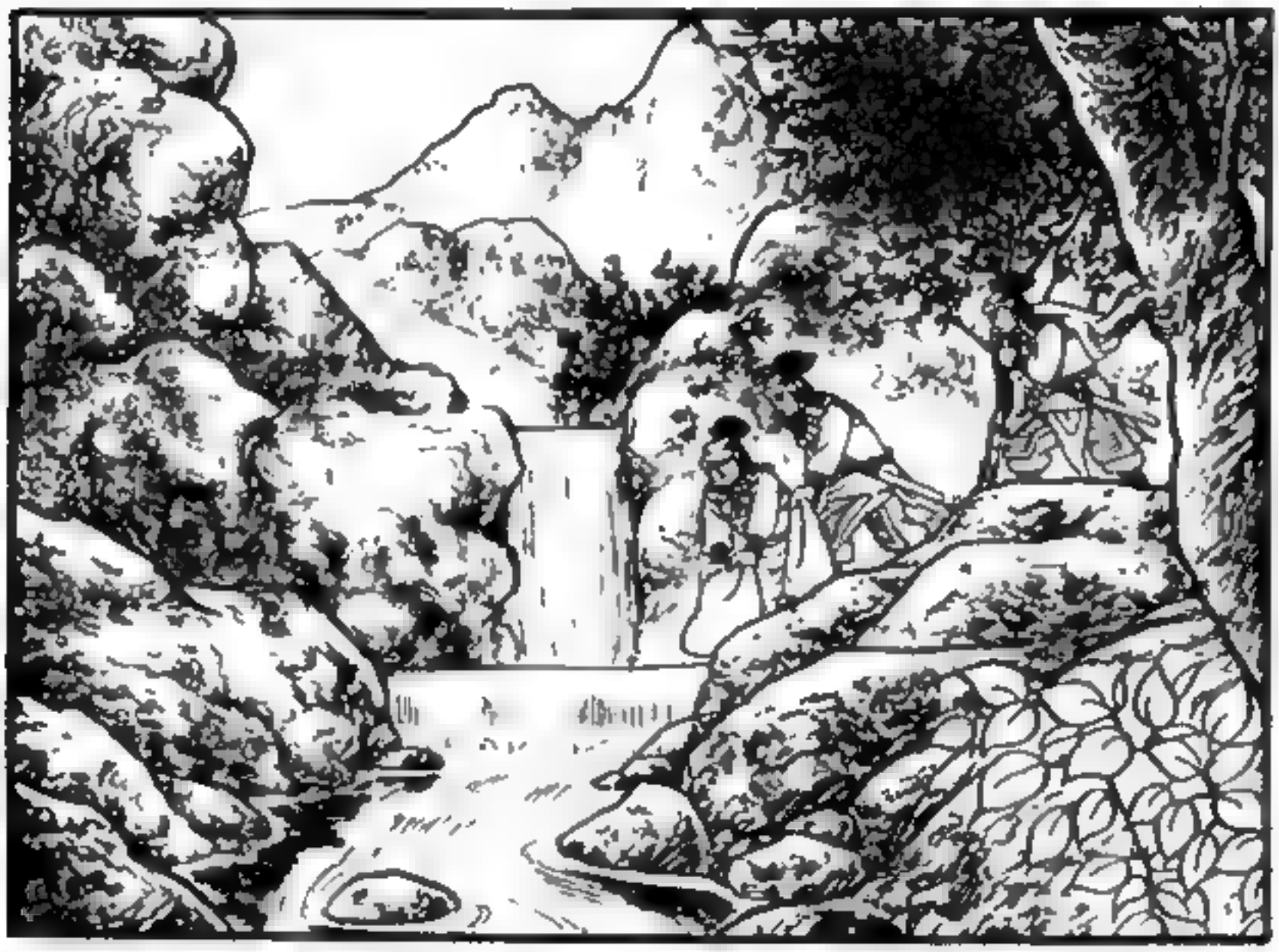

IF THEY'D JUST BUILT A FORT DOWN HERE TO SEAL THE NARROW PATHS, THERE WOULD BE NO WAY TO MAKE USE OF OUR GREATER NUMBERS...


HM?




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LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.




HM?




ENEMIES! HIDE YOUR-SELVES.



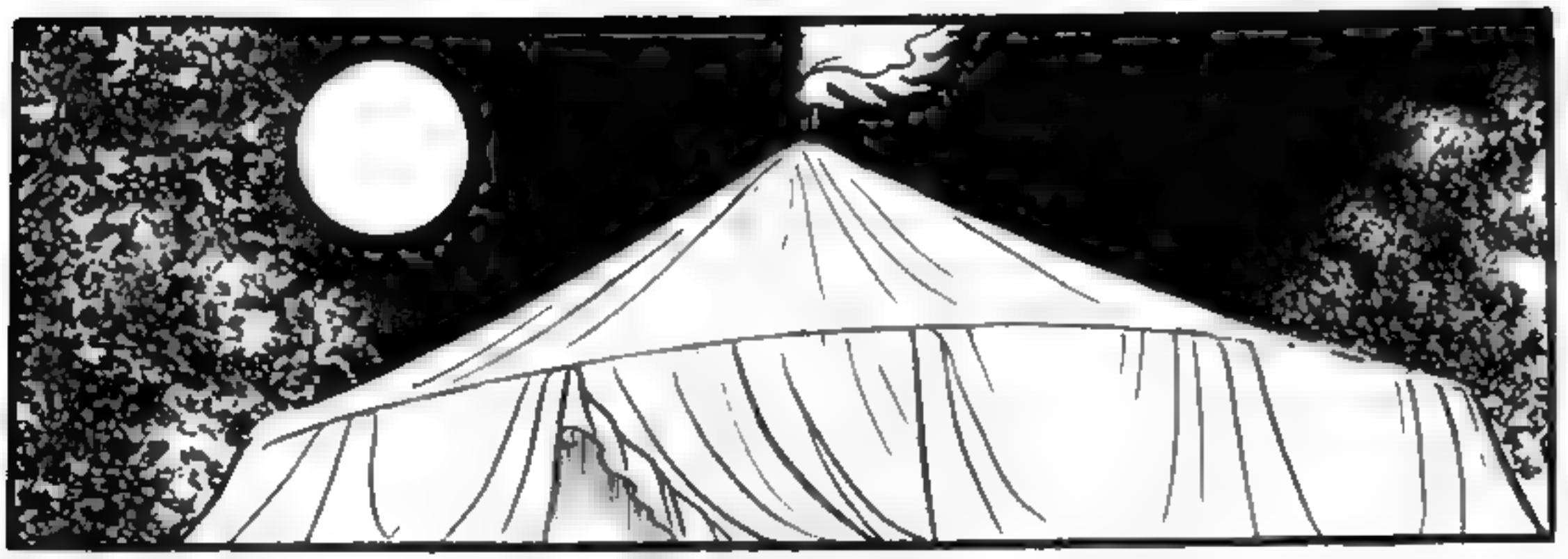





HAHA... I'VE SEEN ENOUGH, LET'S WITHDRAW TO CAMP.


NO WATER ON THE HILLTOPS, IT SEEMS...





MA SU...? I HAD HEARD HE WAS RATHER CLEVER, BUT I SEE NOW THAT HIS TALENTS ARE GREATLY OVERRATED. ZHUGE LIANG MAY BE SMARTER THAN ANYONE BUT HE SURELY HAS NO EYE FOR TALENT IF HE RELIES ON MEN LIKE MA SU.



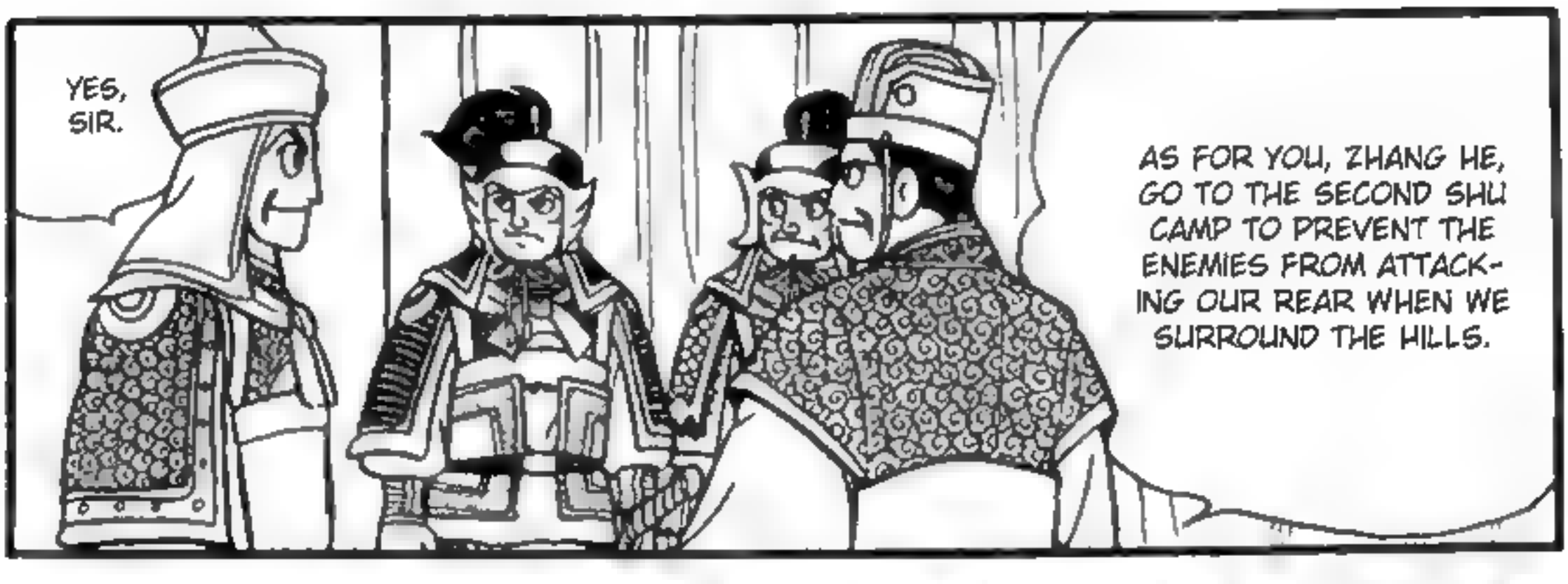
A MAN NAMED MA SU, SIR.

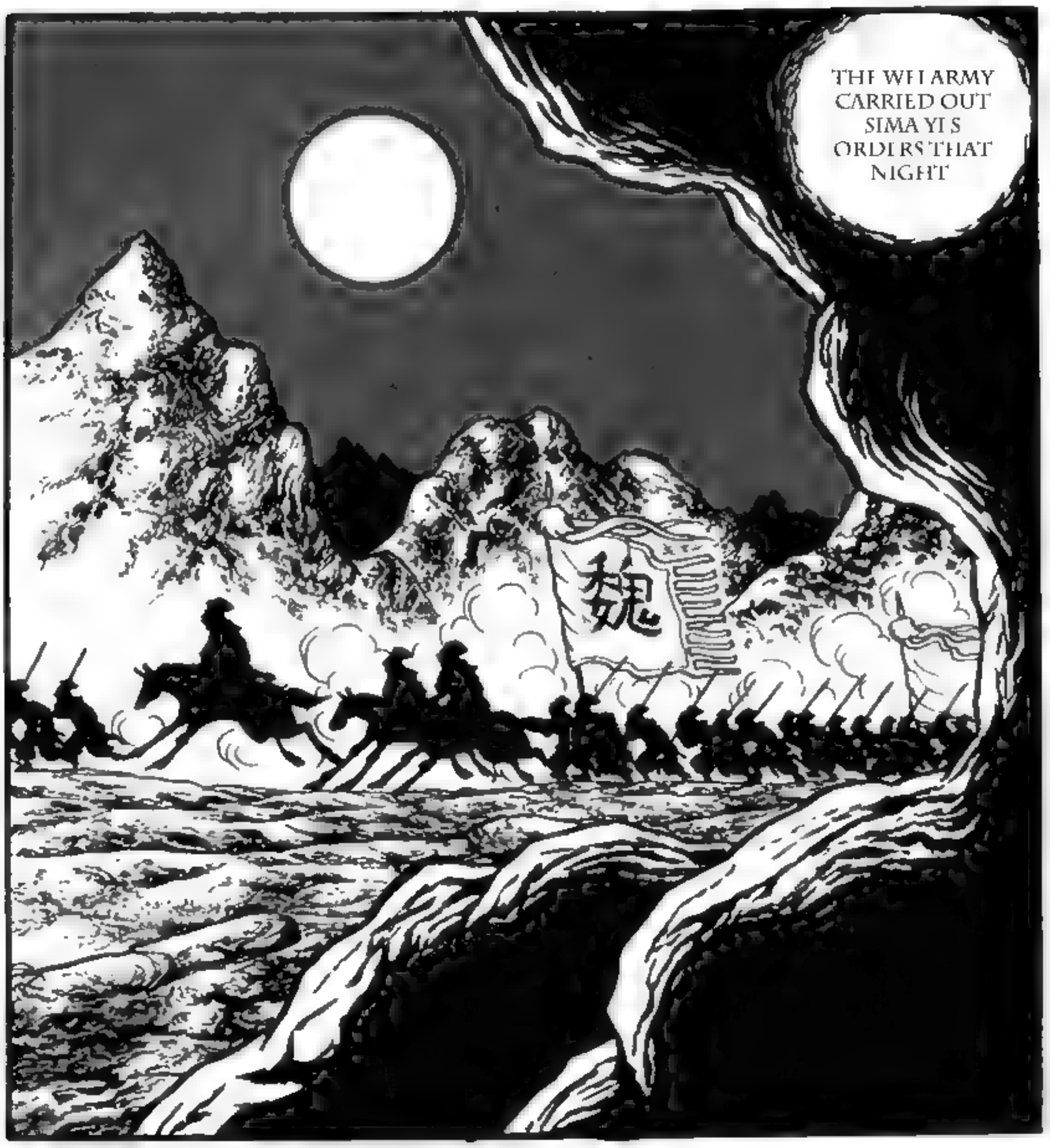
WHO IS THE SHU OFFICER DEFENDING THAT CAMP?



YES, SIR.

SHEN DAN AND SHEN YI. SURROUND THE HILL THE ENEMIES ARE CAMPED ON TO CUT OFF THEIR ACCESS TO THE STREAMS BELOW. MEN CAN HANDLE 3 OR 4 DAYS WITHOUT FOOD BUT NOT WITHOUT WATER.


YES, SIR.
AS FOR YOU, ZHANG HE, GO TO THE SECOND SHU CAMP TO PREVENT THE ENEMIES FROM ATTACK-ING OUR REAR WHEN WE SURROUND THE HILLS.


THE WEI ARMY CARRIED OUT SIMA YI'S ORDERS THAT NIGHT
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HEY, WAKE UP! IT'S OUR TURN FOR WATER DUTIES TODAY.


YAAAWWNN


YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW.



AHHH!

HM?

ENEMY ALERT! WE'VE BEEN SURROUNDED!

THEY'VE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED THE HILL!



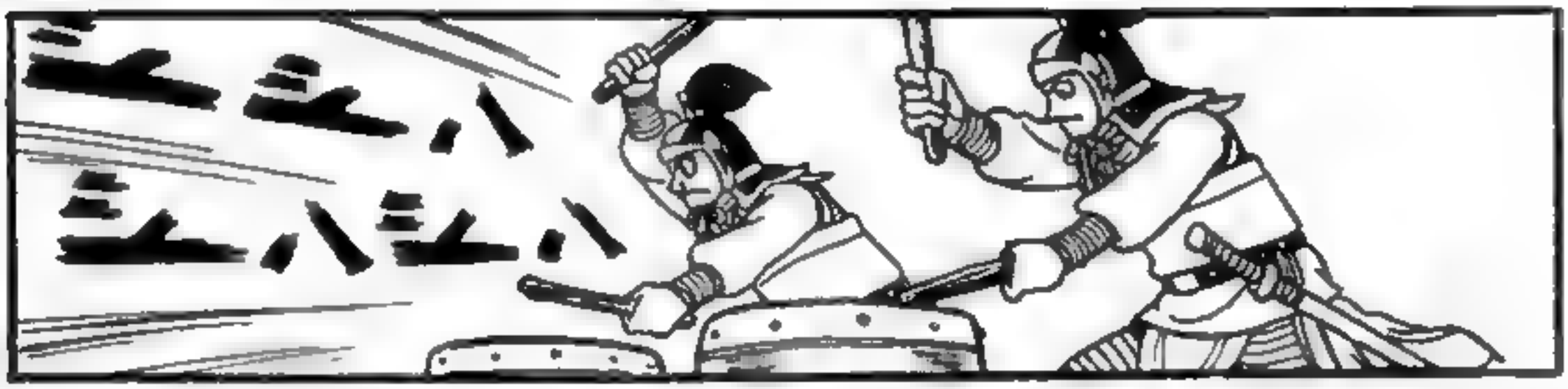





AHH!


PREPARE FOR BATTLE! LET'S SWEEP AWAY THESE RATS SO CHANG'AN CAN BE TAKEN!


WHEN DID THEY SNEAK ALL THE WAY HERE? IT'S TIME TO TEACH THESE RATS A LESSON.





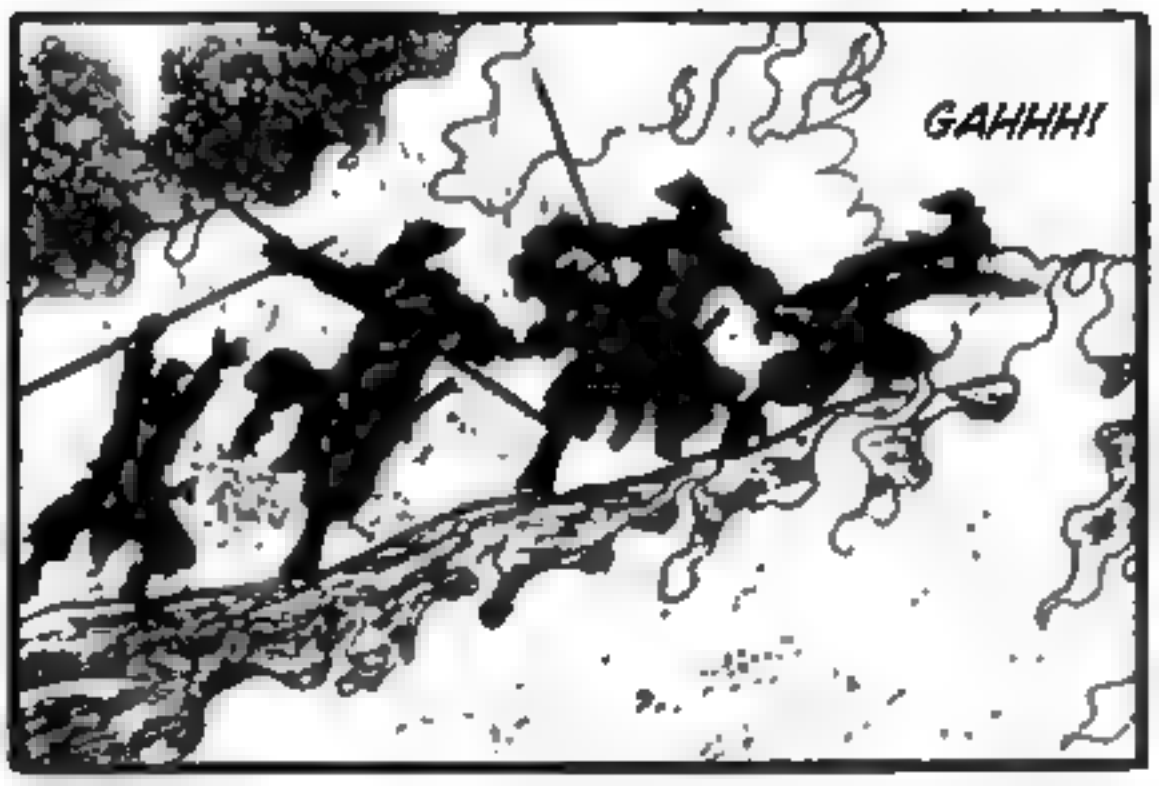

NOW!


HERE COME THE FOOLS...

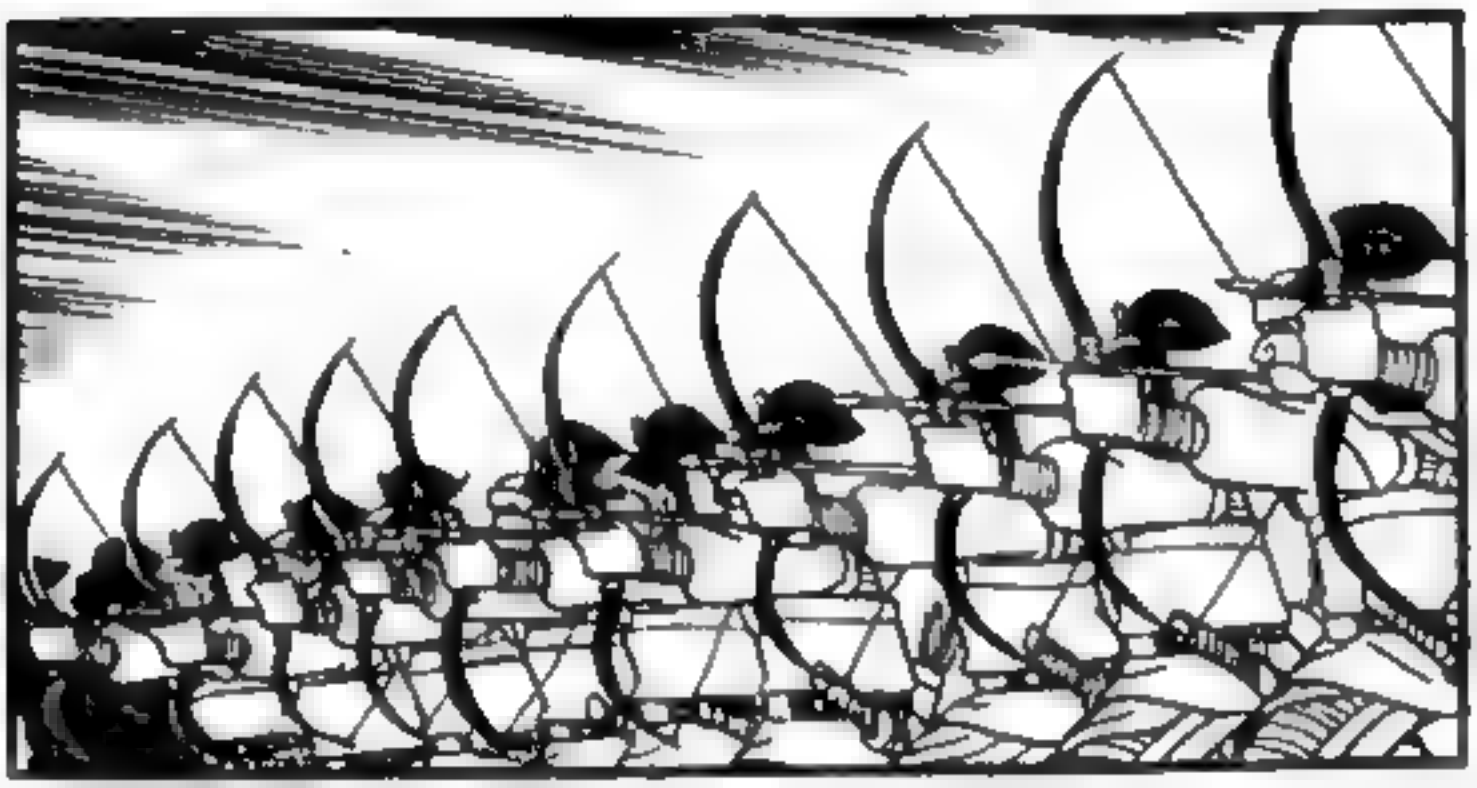


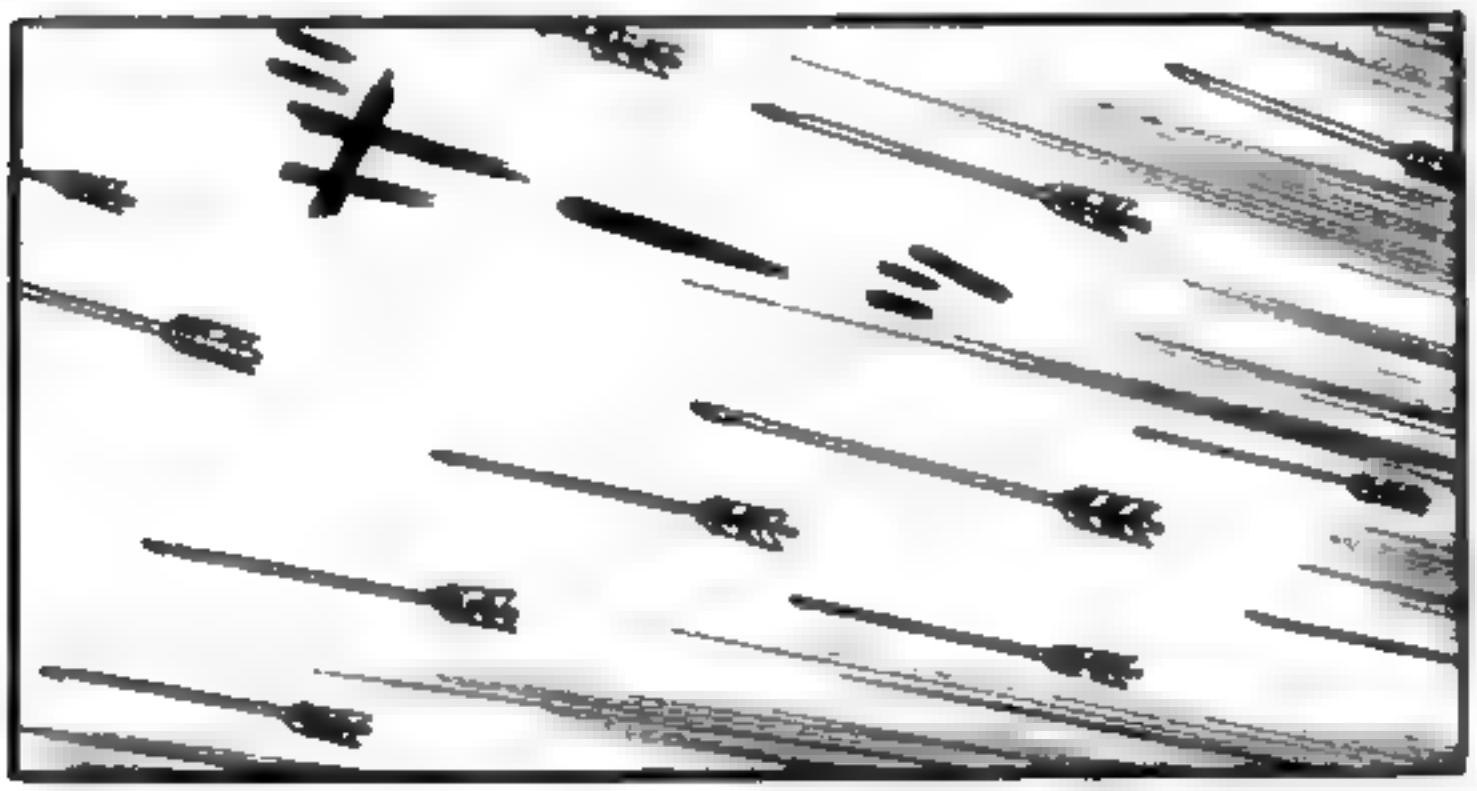




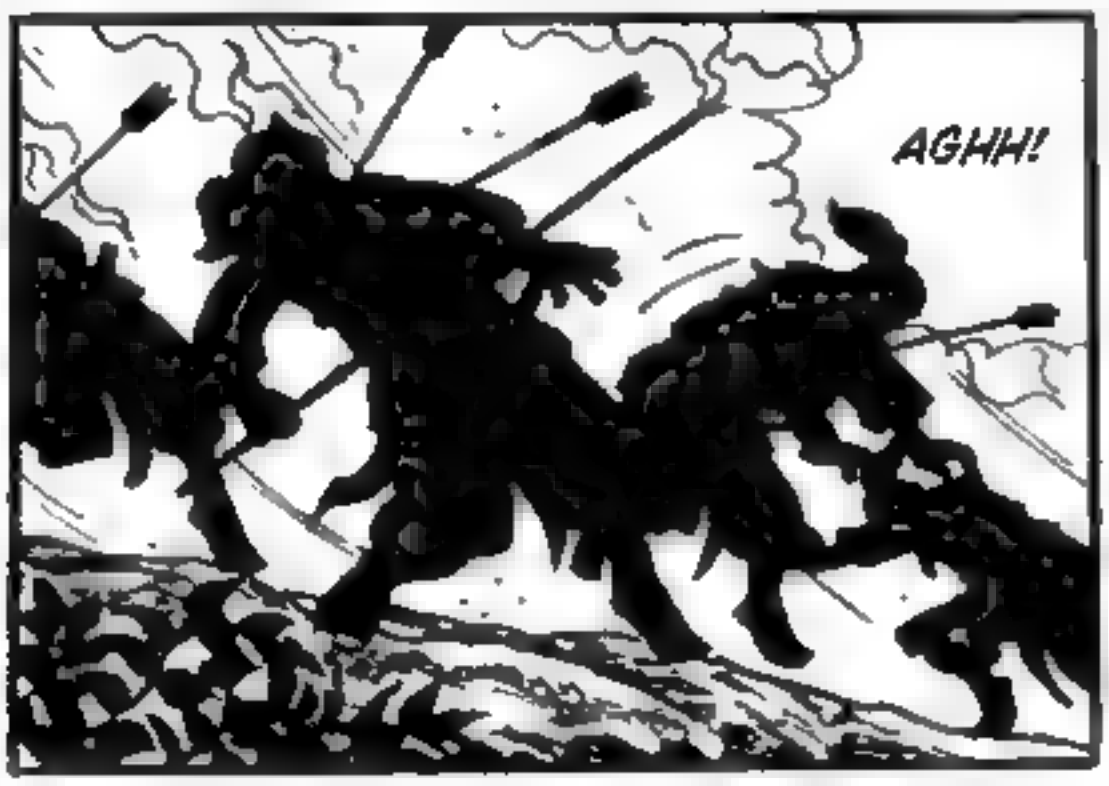

GAHHH!


AHH!

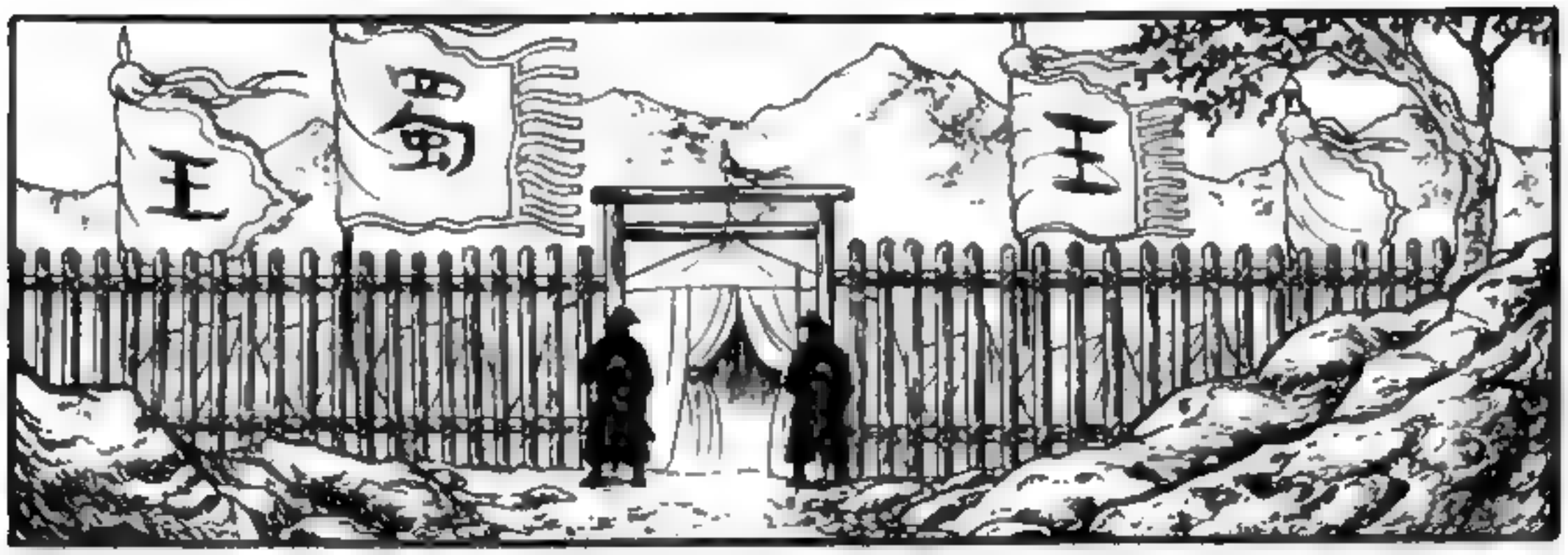





NOW UNLEASH ARROW VOLLEYS!


AGHH!

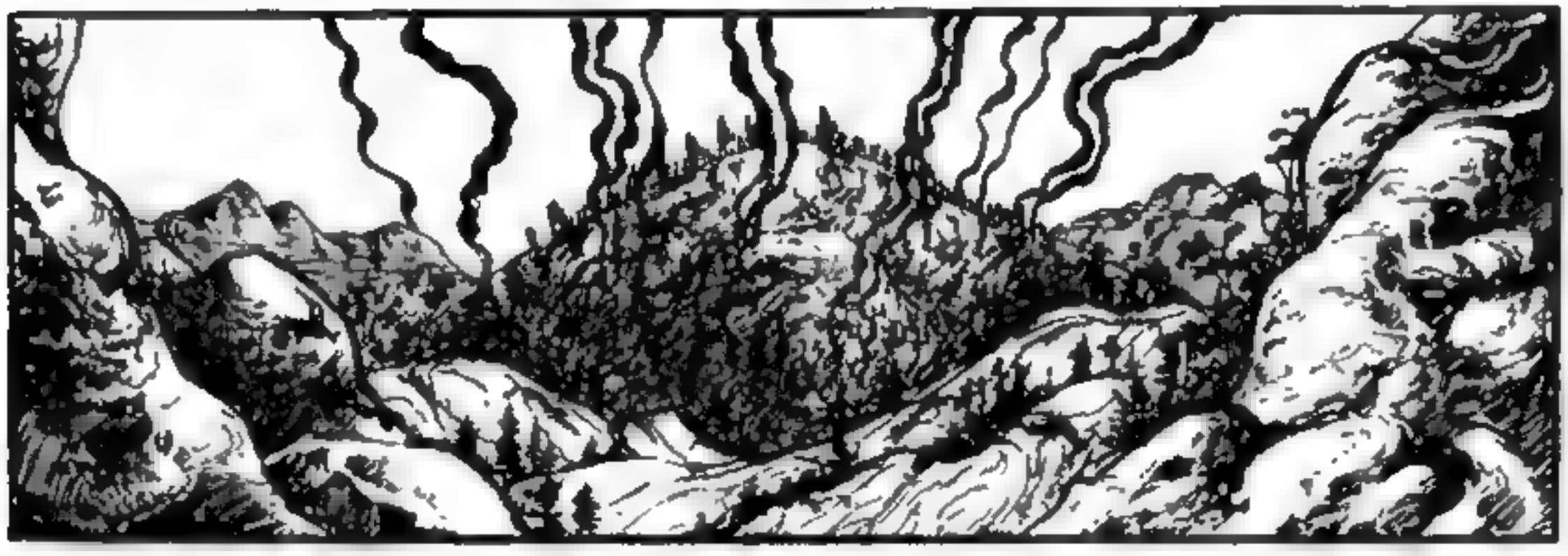

UGHH!


王
馬
王



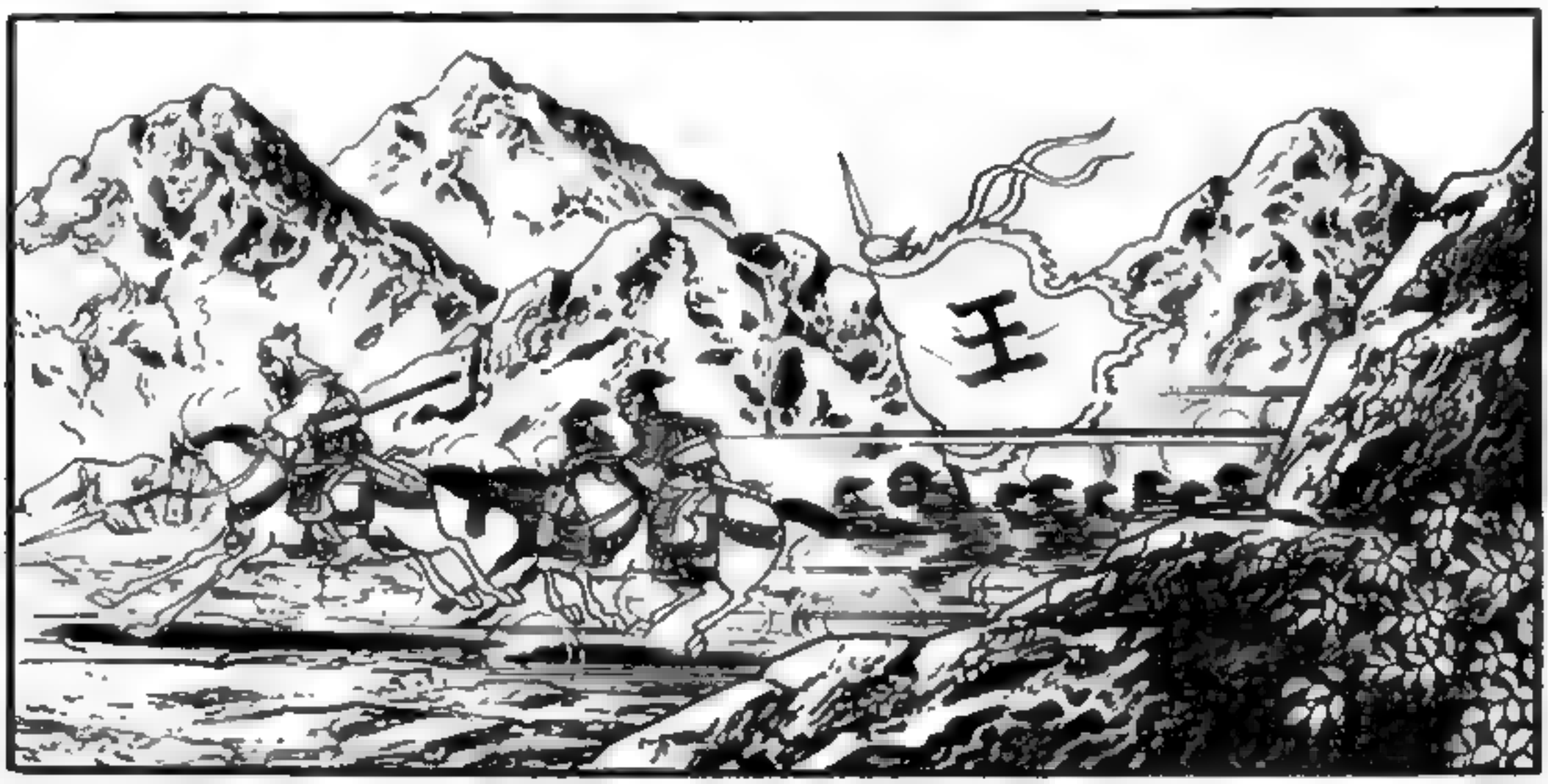

WHAT!?
SIR! FIRE SMOKES HAVE BEEN SPOTTED FROM MA SU'S CAMP!


AHHH!






THE ENEMIES MUST BE HERE! QUICKLY! WE MUST SEND AID!


王


張郃
張郃
WANG PING! DON'T THINK YOU CAN GET PAST ME!


AHH!

CHARGE, MEN!

CURSES! THEY KNEW ABOUR OUR POSITION HERE AS WELL!

HM?

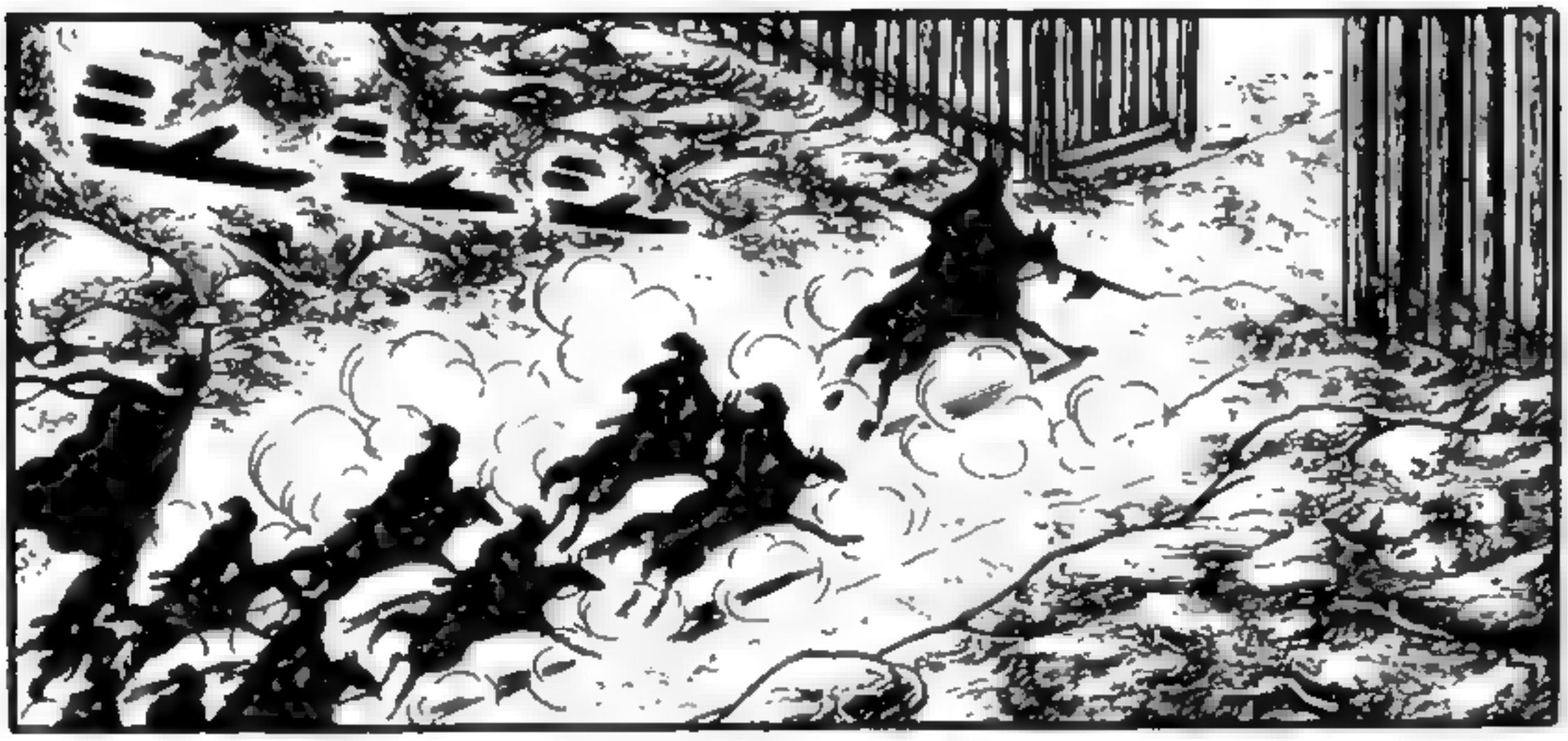
SIR! MORE ENEMIES HAVE ARRIVED!

魏

OVER THERE, TOO!

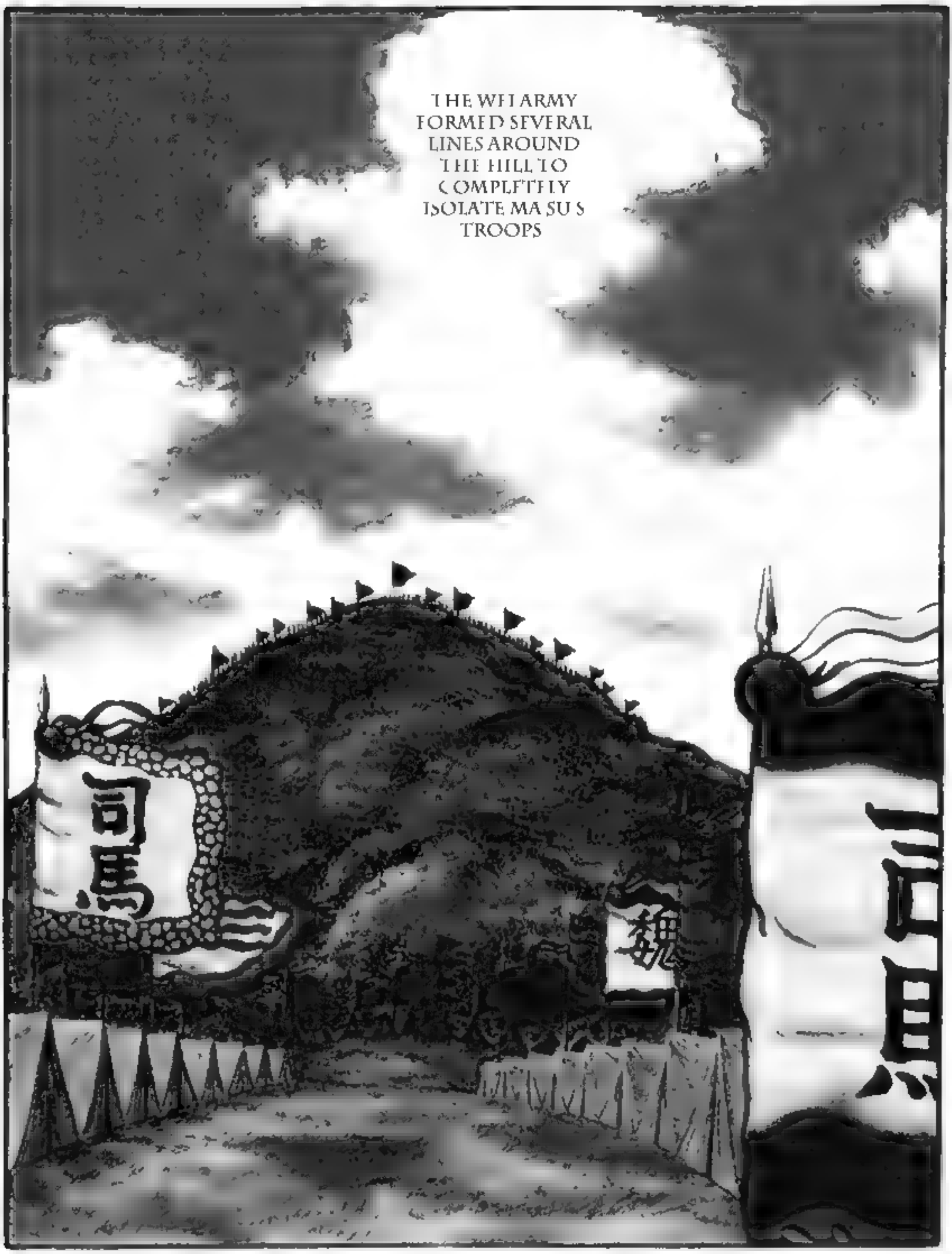
WITHDRAW BACK TO CAMP!

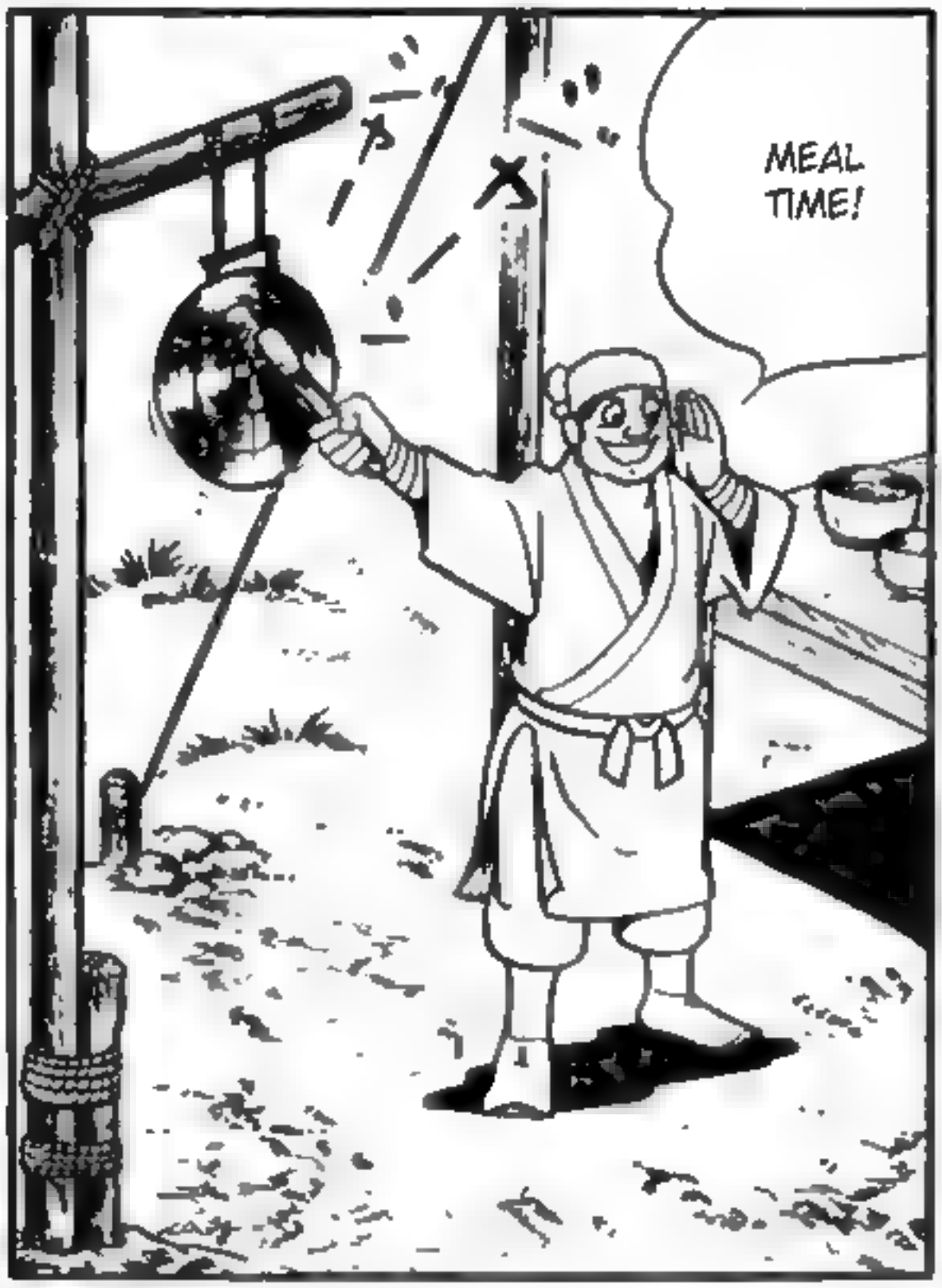
IF WE KEEP TRYING TO ADVANCE AHEAD, WE'LL BE SUR-ROUNDED!




ALL THE METICULOUS
PREPARATION AND
PLANNING THAT WENT INTO
KONGMING S NORTHERN
CAMPAIGN NOW BEGAN TO
UNRAVEL DUE TO MA SU S
MISJUDGEMENT.

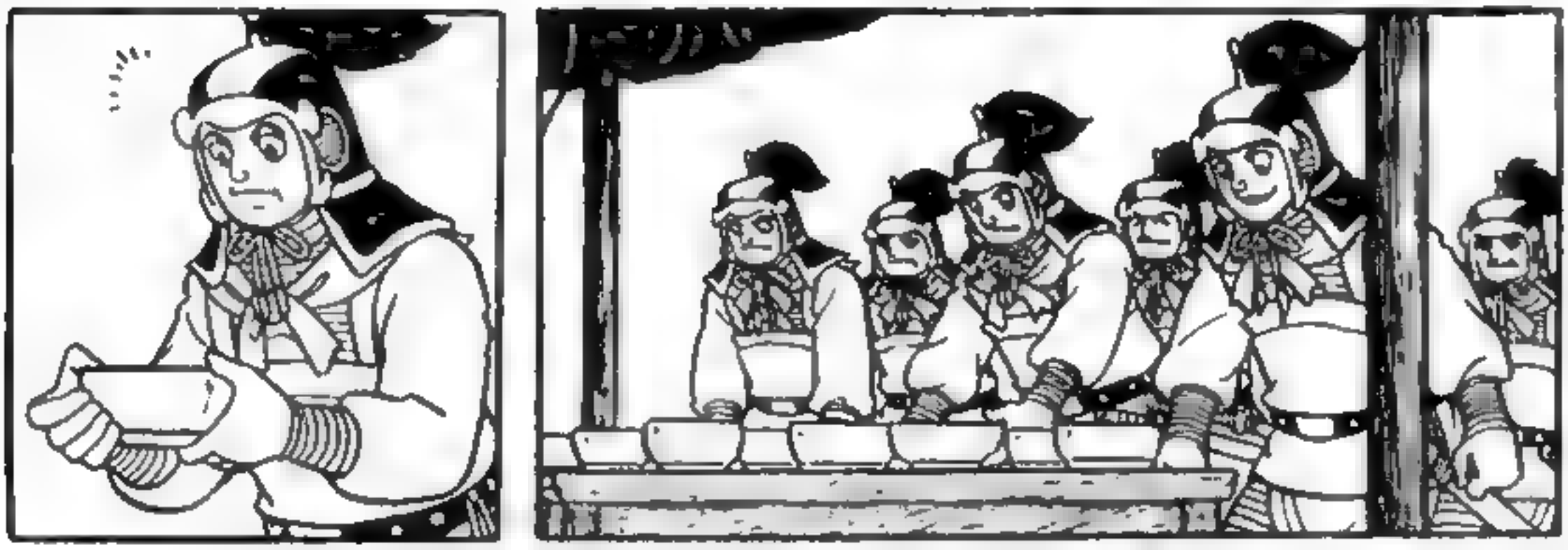
WATER TROUBLE




MEAL
TIME!








SO YOU'RE TELLING US TO JUST EAT IT LIKE THIS?

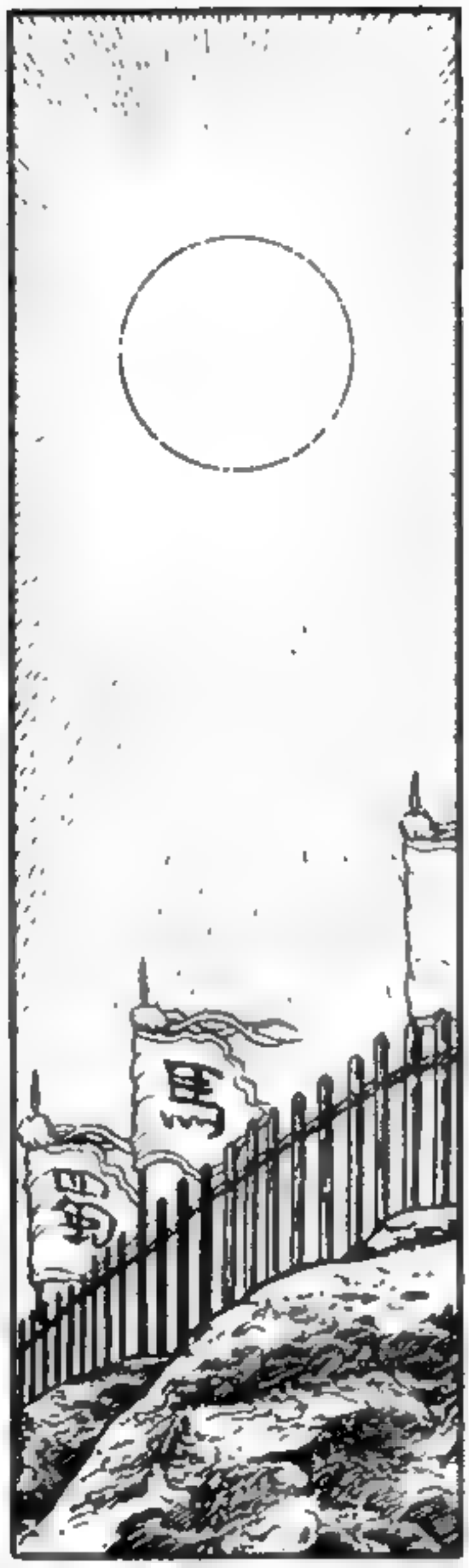

WE HAVE NO WATER, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.
WHAT'S THIS? IT'S NOT EVEN COOKED.


I DON'T THINK WE CAN EVEN PROPERLY DIGEST THIS.


THAT OR STARVE. YOUR CHOICE.


WE'RE GOING TO DIE FROM DEHYDRATION AT THIS RATE...
TALK ABOUT A TURN FOR THE WORSE...





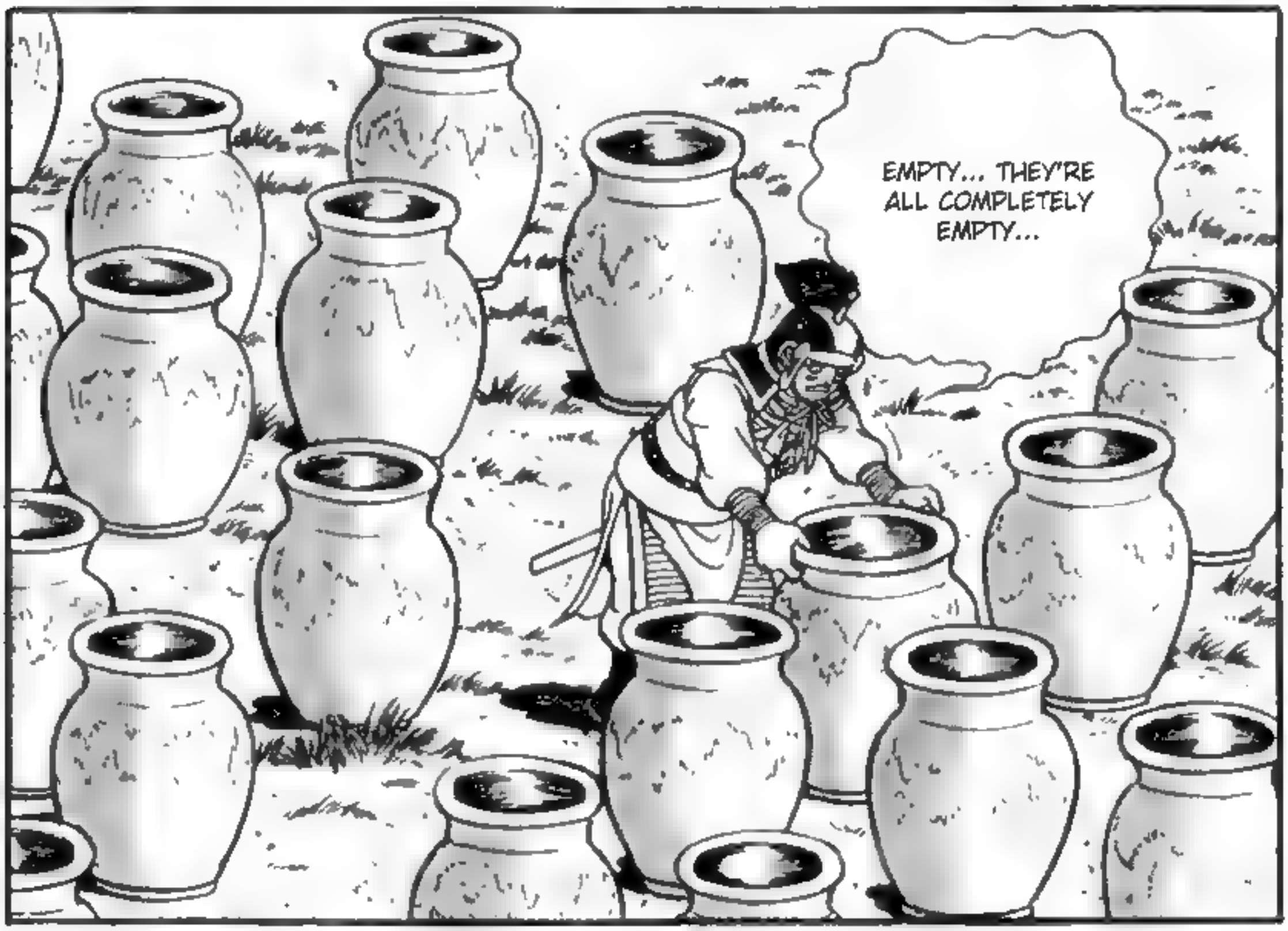

W...
WATER...

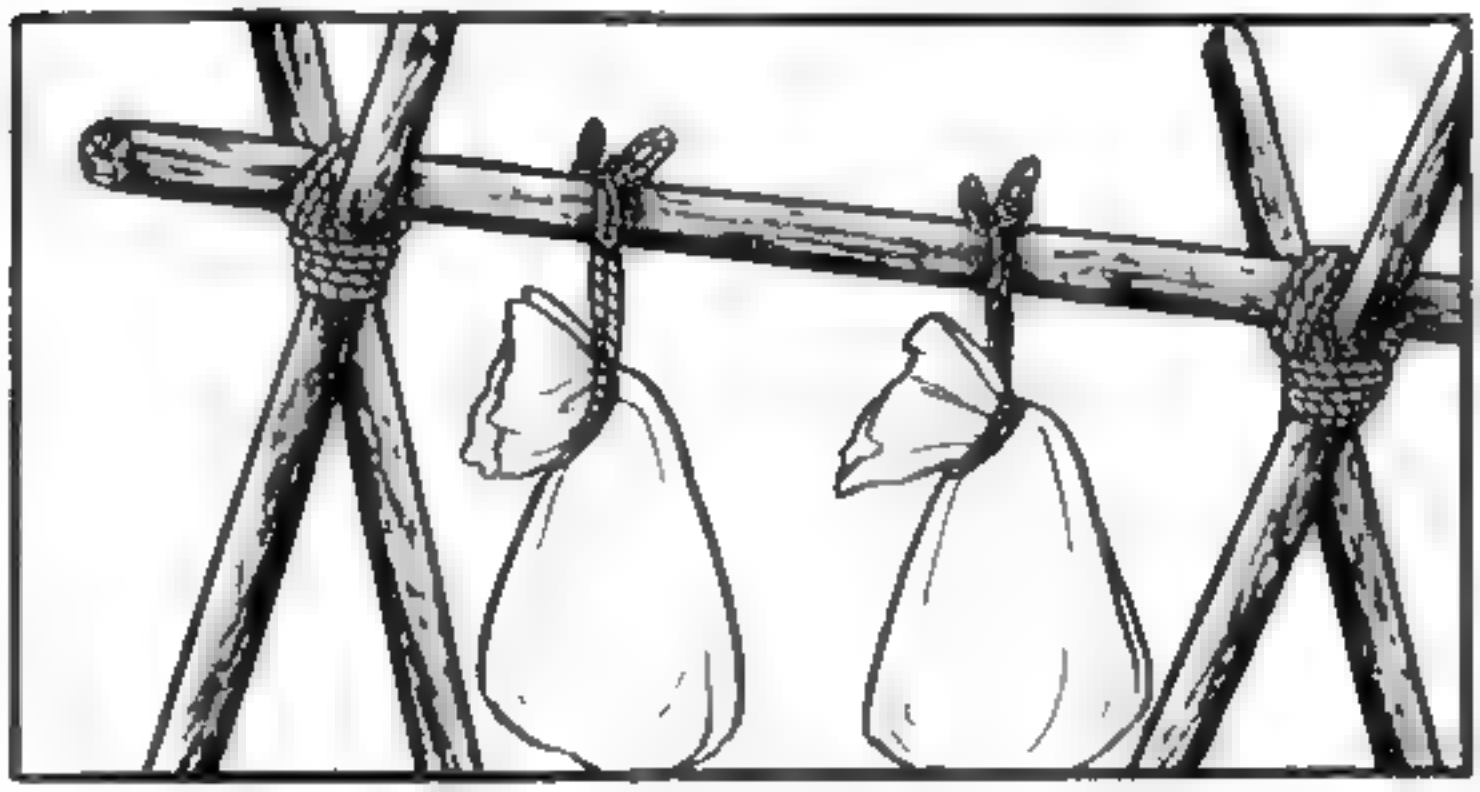



I'M SORRY, WE DON'T HAVE ANY.
G... GIVE ME... WATER...


NOT EVEN A SINGLE DROP...?


SORRY...
NOT EVEN A BIT...?


EMPTY... THEY'RE ALL COMPLETELY EMPTY...




HM...?

T-THERE'S STILL WATER IN THESE!

WATER...!

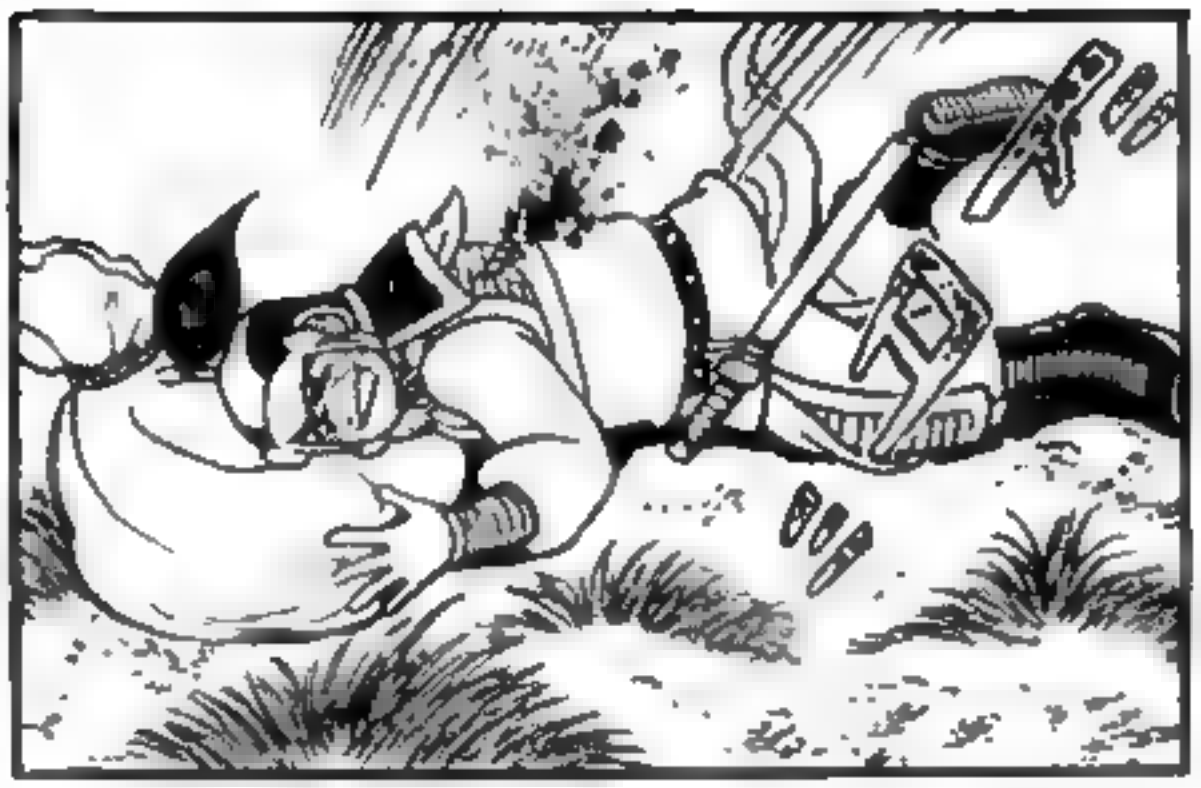
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! THAT'S FOR THE GENERAL ONLY!

I... I DON'T CARE ANYMORE!

ABSOLUTELY NOT. TOUCH IT AND YOU'LL REGRET IT.

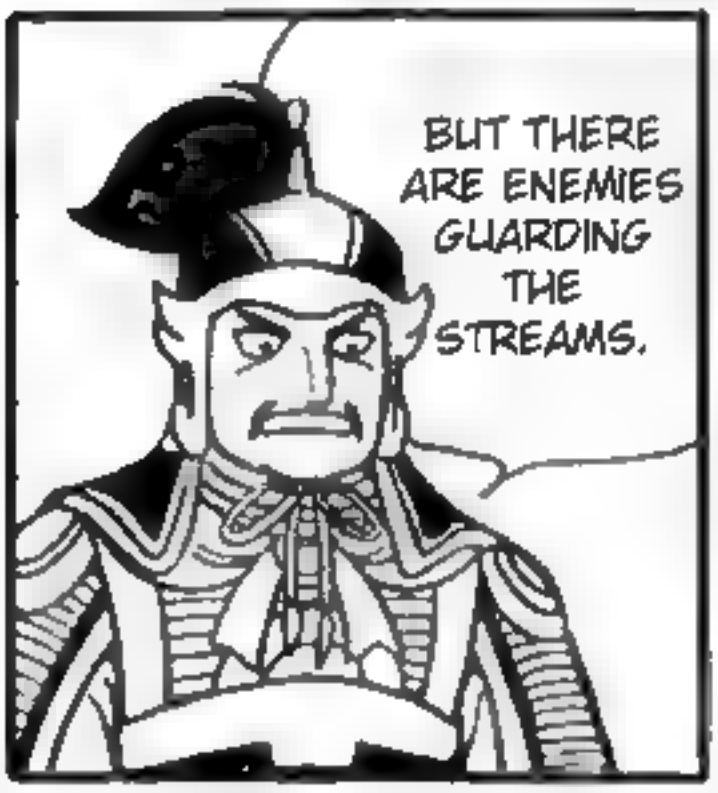
PLEASE! JUST ONE GULP! OR ONE SIP!






LET THIS BE A LESSON TO THE REST OF YOU!




BUT THERE ARE ENEMIES GUARDING THE STREAMS.


SO ARE WE TO JUST WAIT FOR DEATH TO COME THEN?


CAPTAIN, WE'LL DIE WITHOUT EVEN FIGHTING AT THIS RATE. AT LEAST LET US GO GET SOME WATER.


YES, SIR.
FINE, BUT BE PREPARED FOR THE WORST.


HMM... YOU DO HAVE A POINT.


I'LL COME TOO!
OHH!
GUYS! WE GOT PERMISSION TO GO GET WATER!










BE CAREFUL...







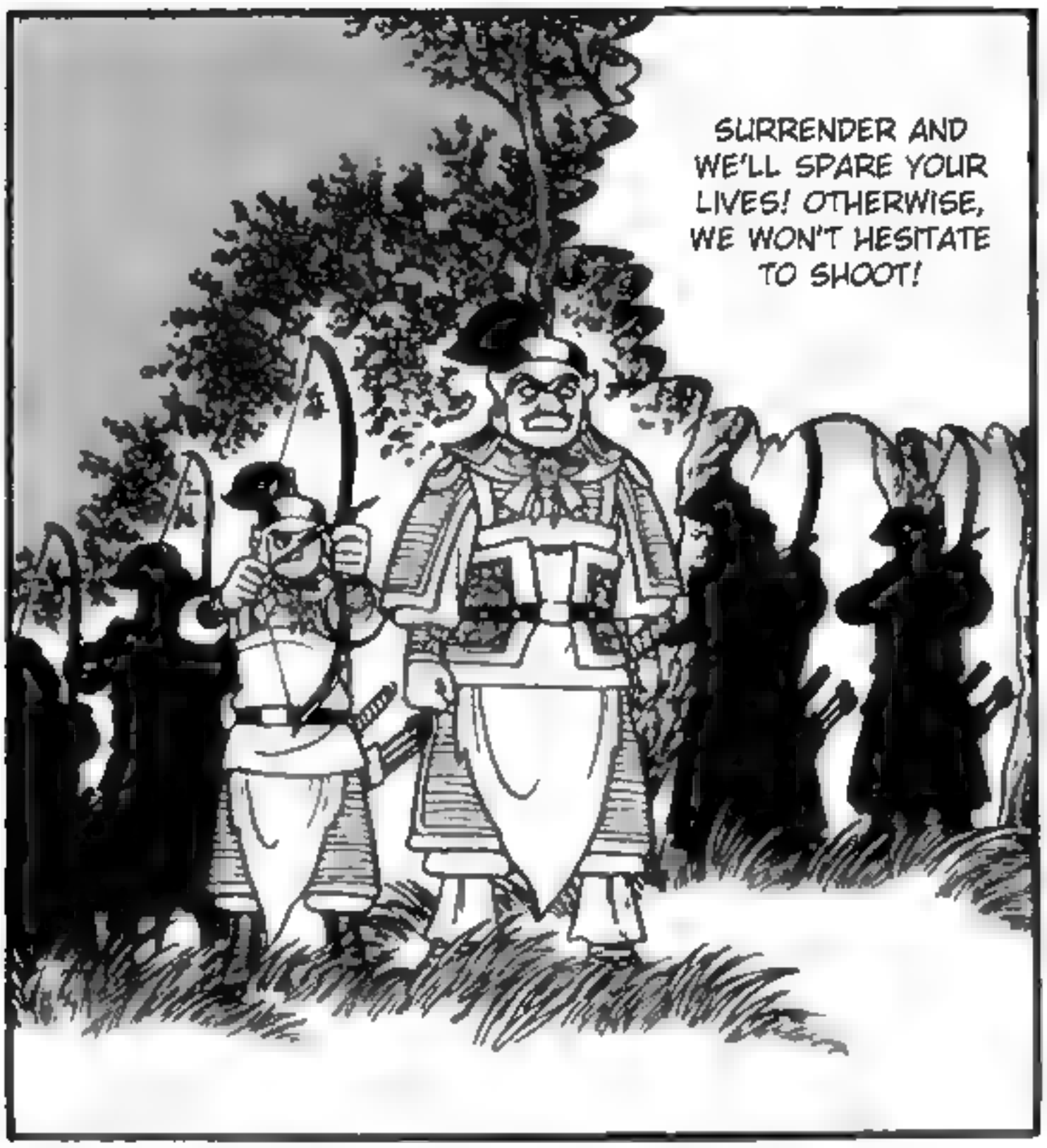


LET'S GET BACK QUICKLY.

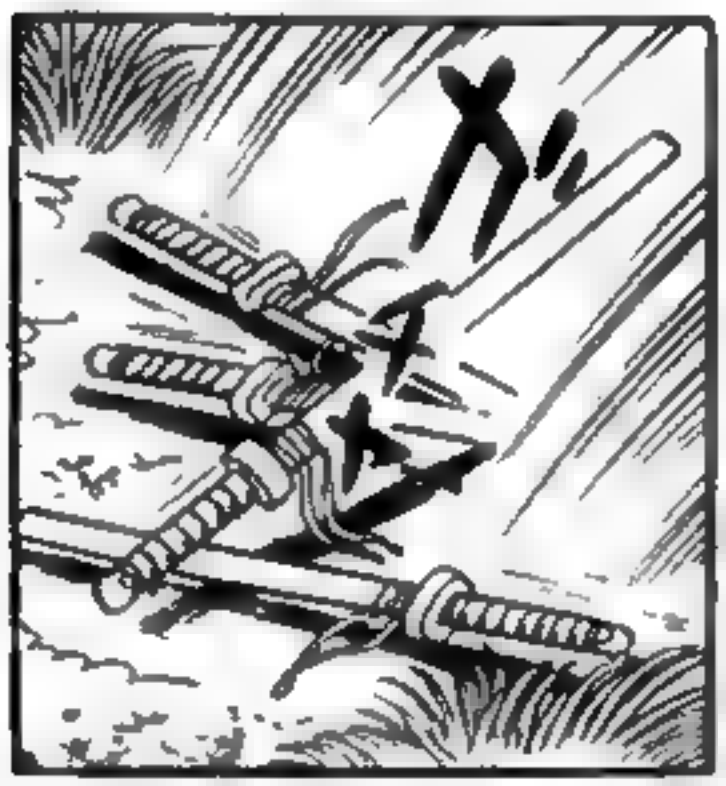
AH!

ヒュン

O-OH NO! THEY FOUND US!


SURRENDER AND WE'LL SPARE YOUR LIVES! OTHERWISE, WE WON'T HESITATE TO SHOOT!

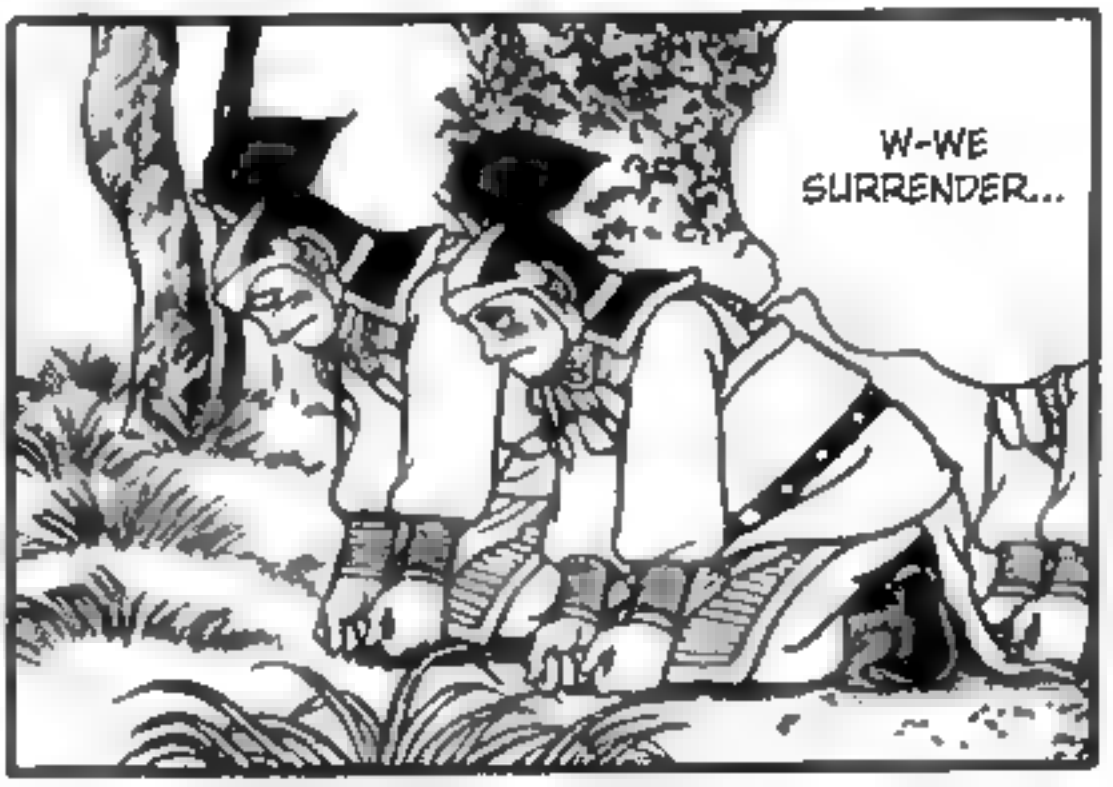

HAHA, DESPERATE FOR WATER, AREN'CHA? WE KNEW YOU'D BE SNEAKING OUT OF YOUR CAMPS AROUND NOW.








GOOD, NOW WE WON'T HAVE TO SHED NEEDLESS BLOOD.


W-WE SURRENDER...

YES, SIR.

WHAT? YOU LET A UNIT GO OUT TO BRING BACK WATER LAST NIGHT?

SINCE NOT A SINGLE SOLDIER RETURNED, IT'S LIKELY THEY WERE EITHER KILLED OR CAPTURED.

THE SOLDIERS' THIRST GROWS STRONGER WITH TIME. WE ARE SIMPLY AWAITING DEATH RIGHT NOW.

HM...

YES, SIR.

SEE IF YOU CAN GET ANOTHER UNIT TO BRING BACK WATER WHILE WE WAIT.

DON'T PANIC JUST YET. WEI YAN AND GAO XIANG SHOULD KNOW THAT WE'RE IN TROUBLE BY NOW. THEY'LL BE COMING TO REINFORCE US ANY MOMENT NOW.

VOLUN-TEERS WERE ORGAN IZED.

AND SENT OUT AGAIN BUT NONE RETURNED

NO, SIR...

NOBODY RETURNED AGAIN!?

RIGHT.

THE TROOPS HAVE ALMOST LOST THEIR WILL TO FIGHT. PLEASE GIVE THEM SOME WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT.


LISTEN UP! THE SUFFERING YOU ARE GOING THROUGH NOW IS MERELY TEMPORARY! GENERALS GAO XIANG AND WEI YAN WILL SOON BE ARRIVING WITH REINFORCEMENTS ANY MOMENT NOW! SO STAY STRONG UNTIL THEN!


HOWEVER. MASUS WORDS DID LITTLE TO ASSUAGE THE SOLDIERS THIRST 10 000 TROOPS SECRETLY LEFT CAMP THAT NIGHT
馬
司馬
TO SURRENDER TO THE WEI ARMY

YES, THEY'VE LIKELY RUN AWAY OR DEFECTED.

HALF OUR ARMY IS GONE!?

AHH!

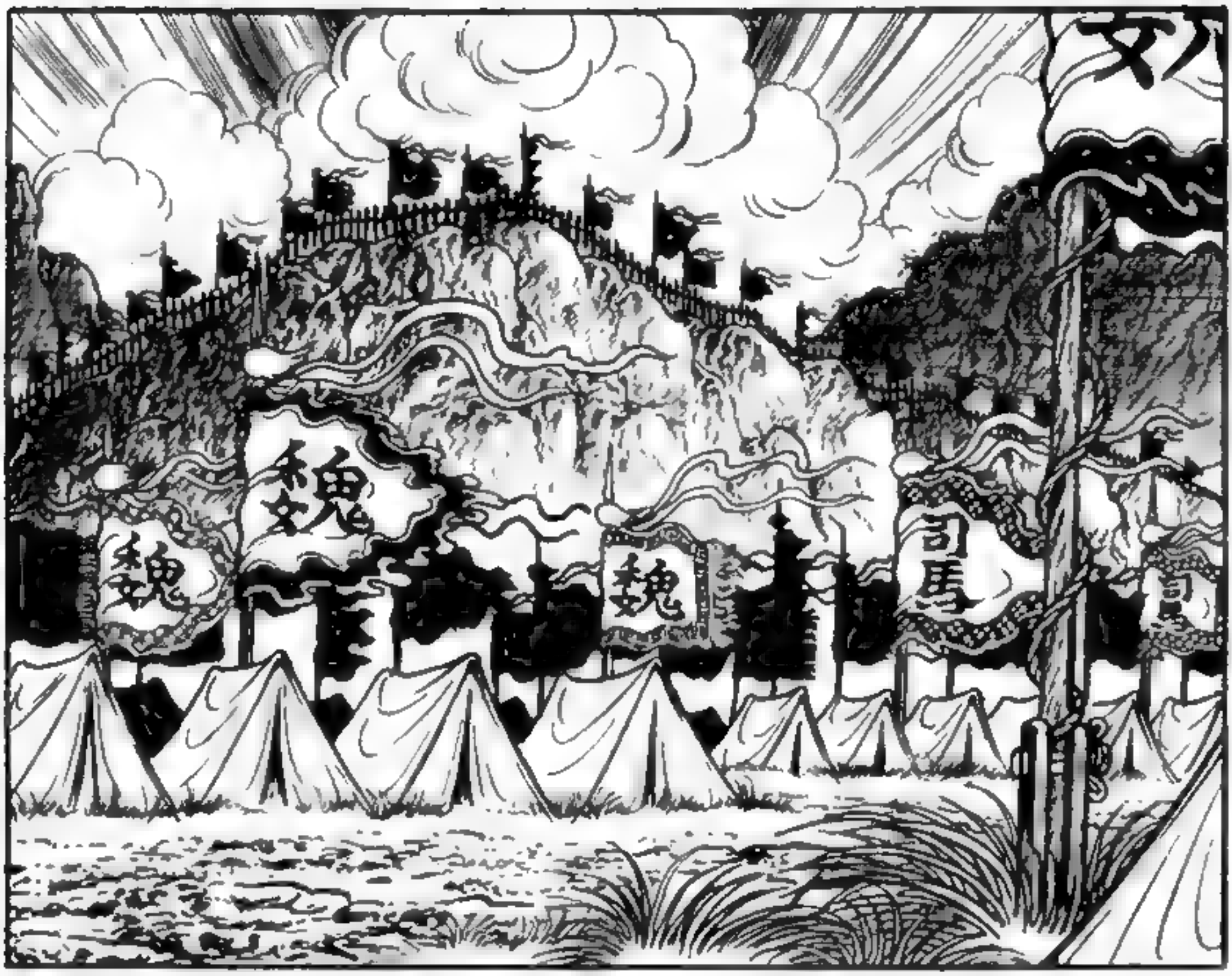

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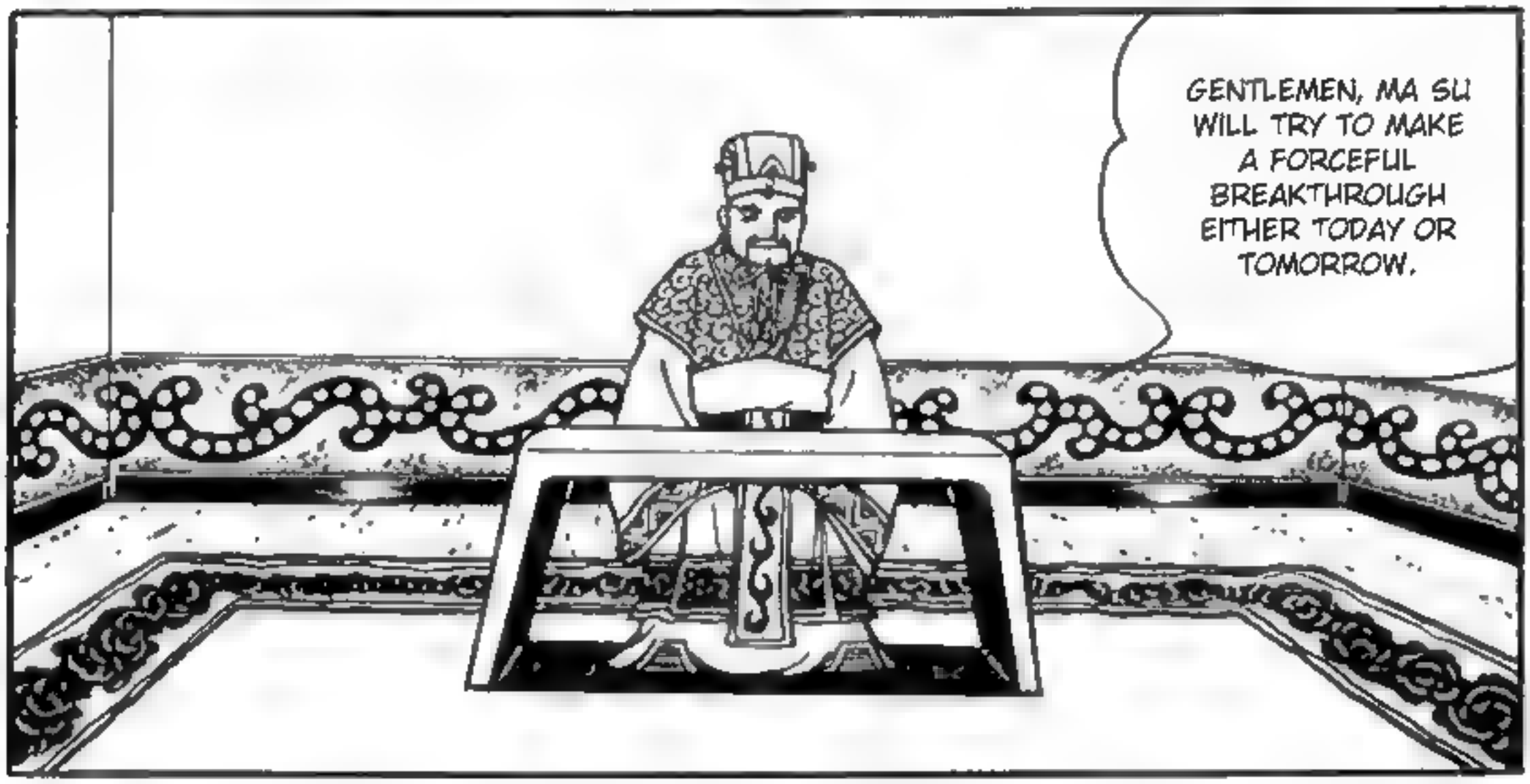

MNN...


BY TOMORROW, WE MAY NOT EVEN HAVE ANY TROOPS LEFT, SIR.


YES, SIR.
WE CAN WAIT FOR REINFORCEMENTS NO LONGER! WE MUST TRY TO BREAK THROUGH THE ENEMY ENCIRCLEMENT AND HEAD TO LILIU!

BATTLE OF JIETING





EVEN MA SU SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT, SO HE WILL DEFINITELY COME DOWN FROM THE HILLS VERY SOON.

MA SU MAY HAVE THOUGHT HE COULD LAST UNTIL REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED, BUT BY TOMORROW HE'LL HAVE NO TROOPS TO FIGHT WITH.

THE FACT THAT NEARLY HALF HIS FORCES SURRENDERD LAST NIGHT MEANS THEY'VE REACHED THEIR LIMIT.

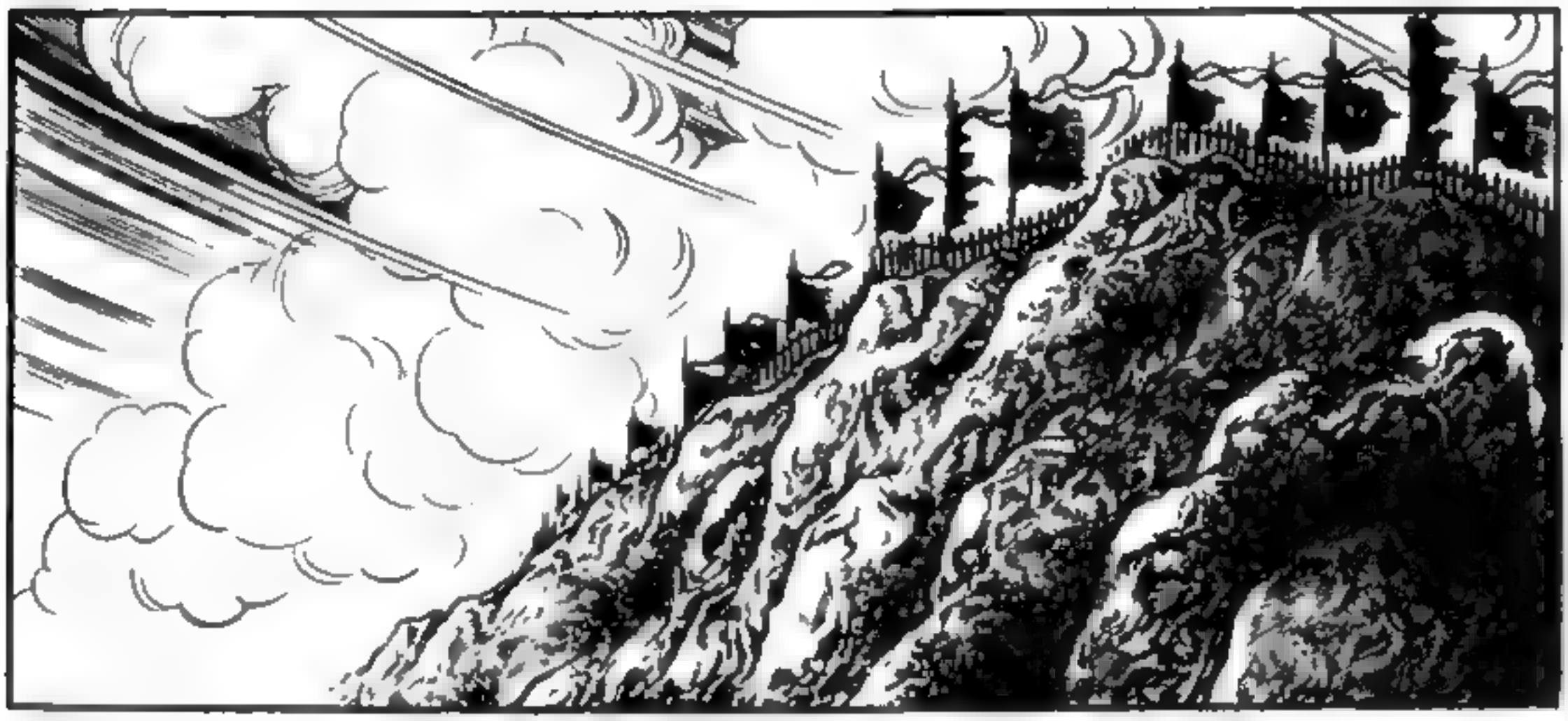
IF HE TAKES THE BAIT, WE WILL THEN SURROUND AND ANNHILATE HIS FORCES.

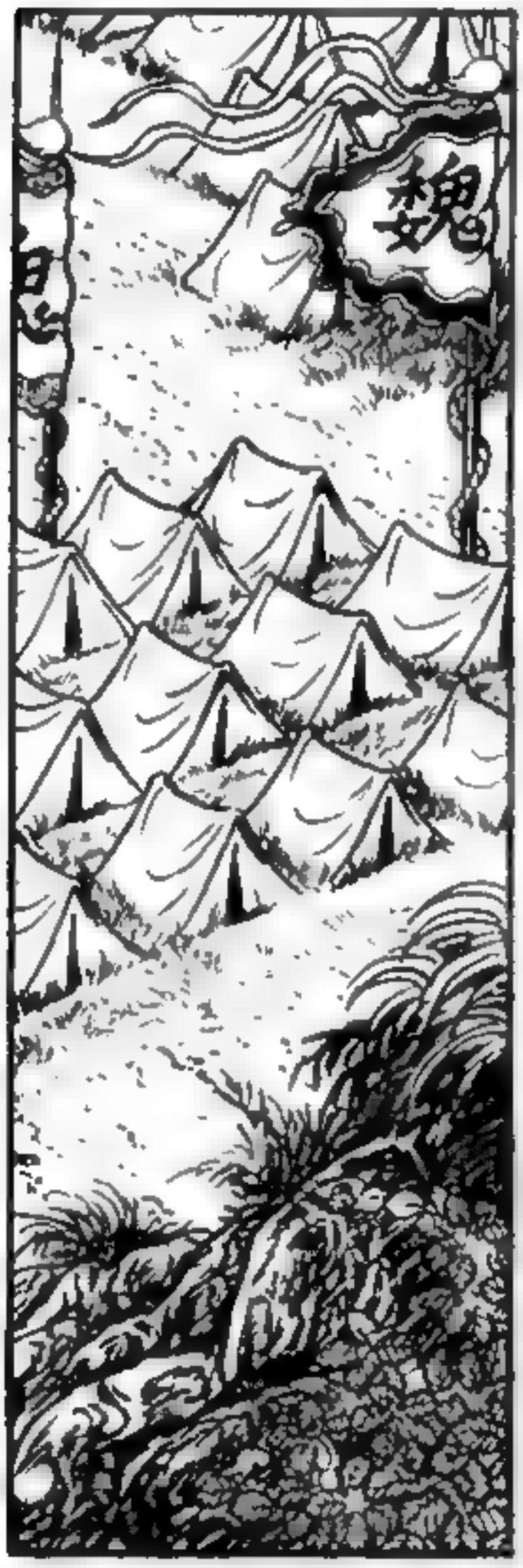
SO WE WILL PURPOSELY LEAVE ONE PATH OPEN TO LURE HIM THERE.

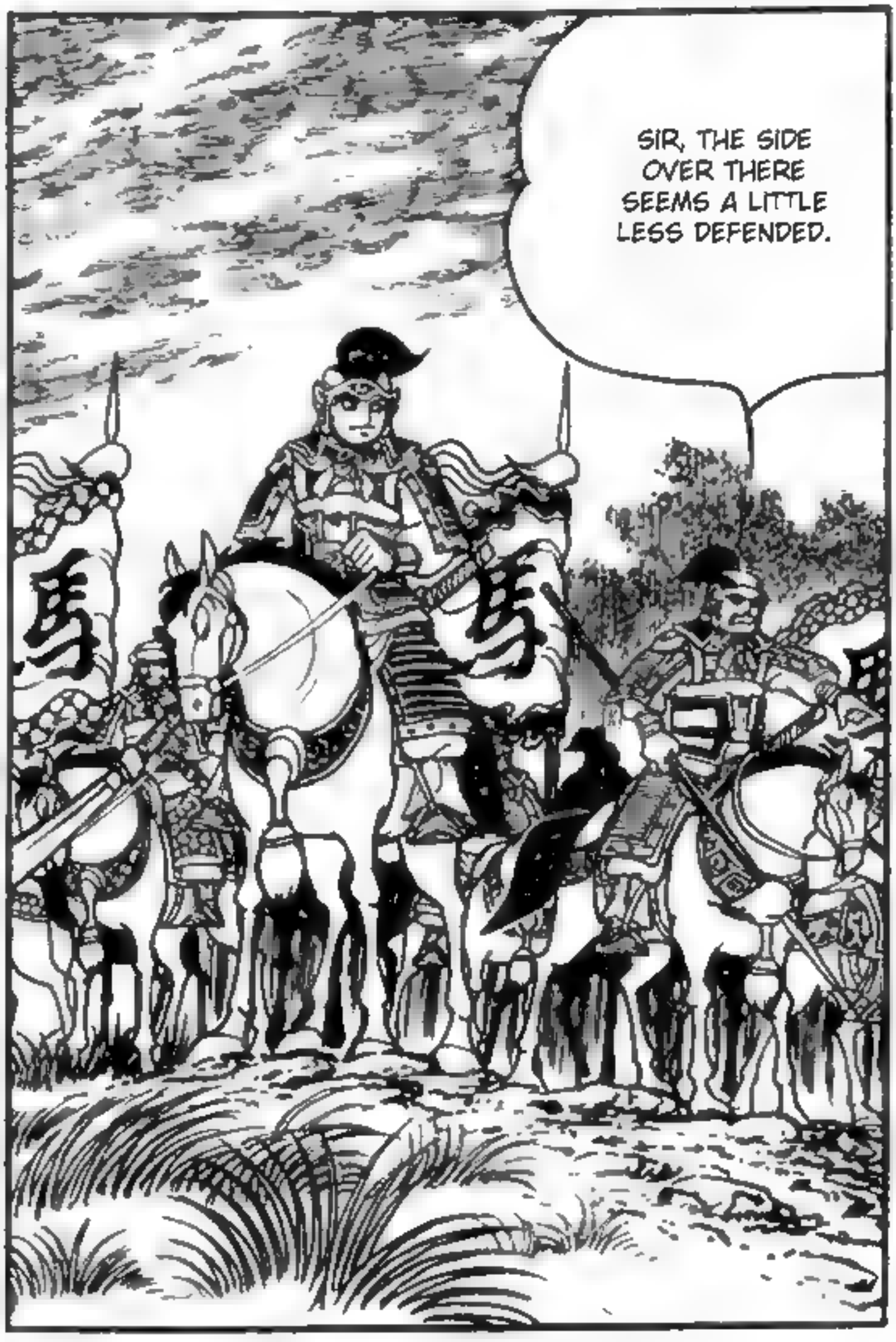
YES.

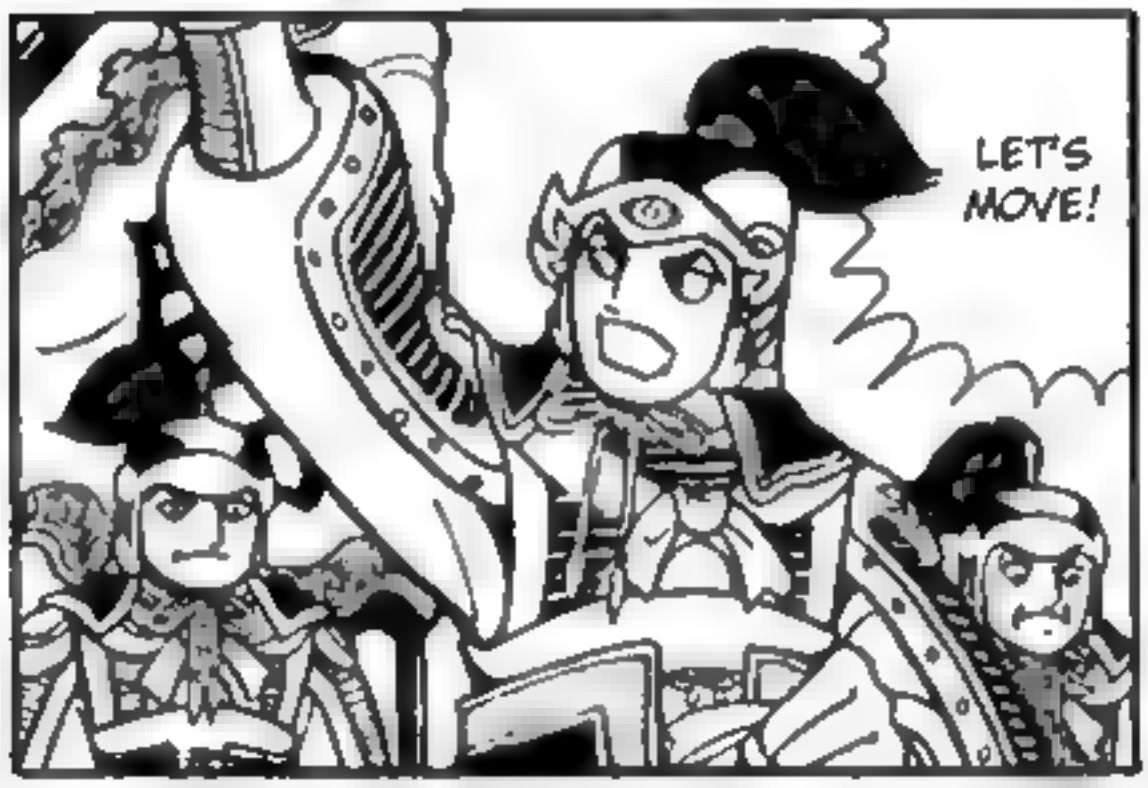
RIGHT AWAY.

NOW GET TO YOUR POSITIONS.




魏


SIR, THE SIDE OVER THERE SEEMS A LITTLE LESS DEFENDED.
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LET'S MOVE!


GOOD, WE'LL HEAD THAT WAY TO RETREAT TO LILIU.

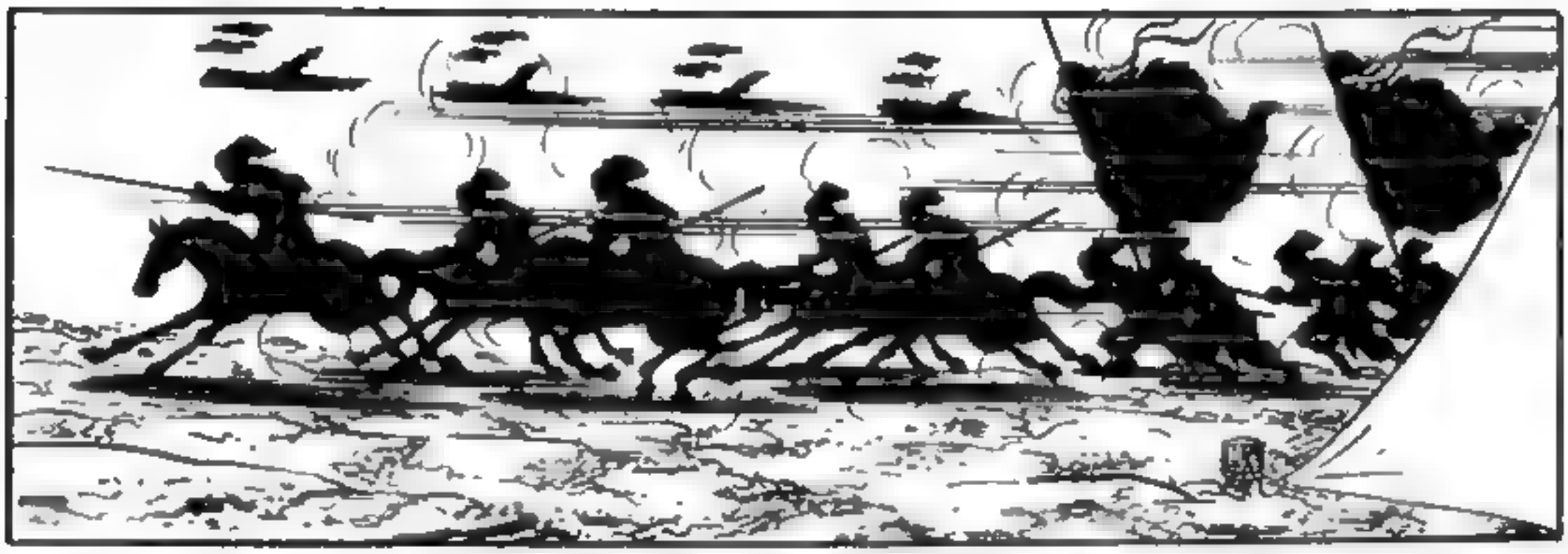


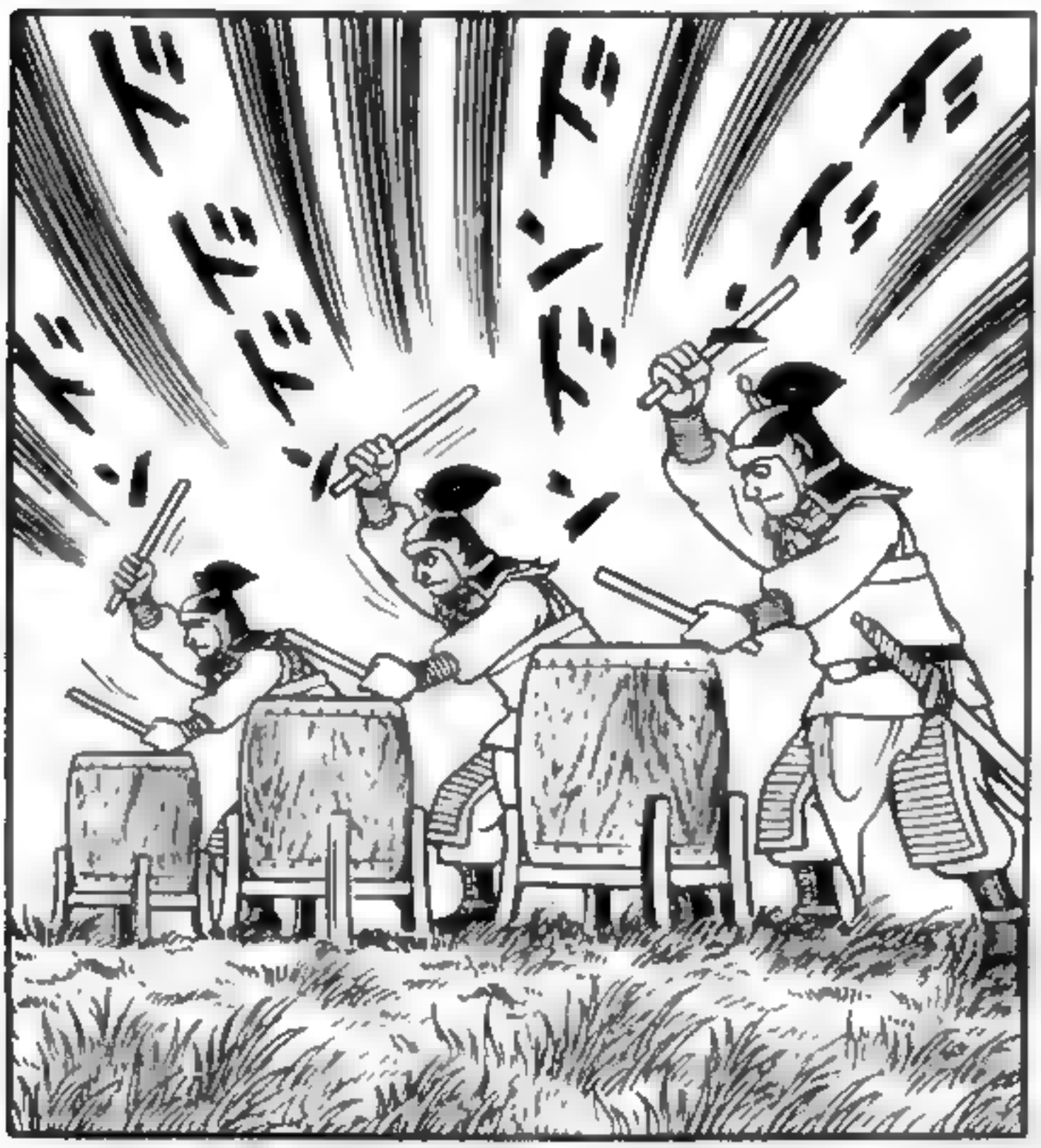
DON'T SPRING THE TRAP UNTIL THEY'RE DEEP WITHIN IT.

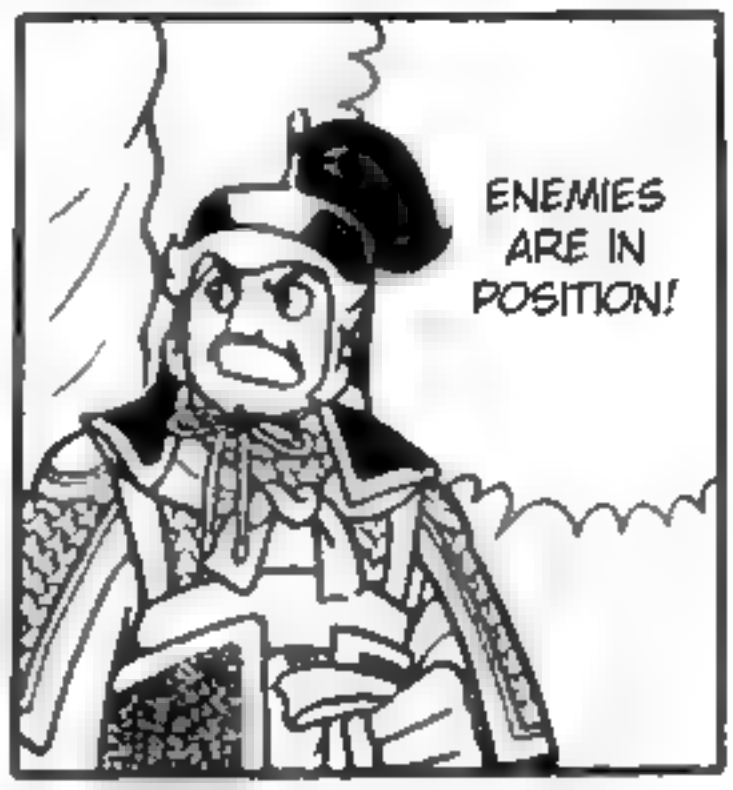
YES, SIR.

GOOD, LET THEM THROUGH OUR LINES.

SHU FORCES HAVE COME DOWN FROM THE HILLS, COMMANDER.



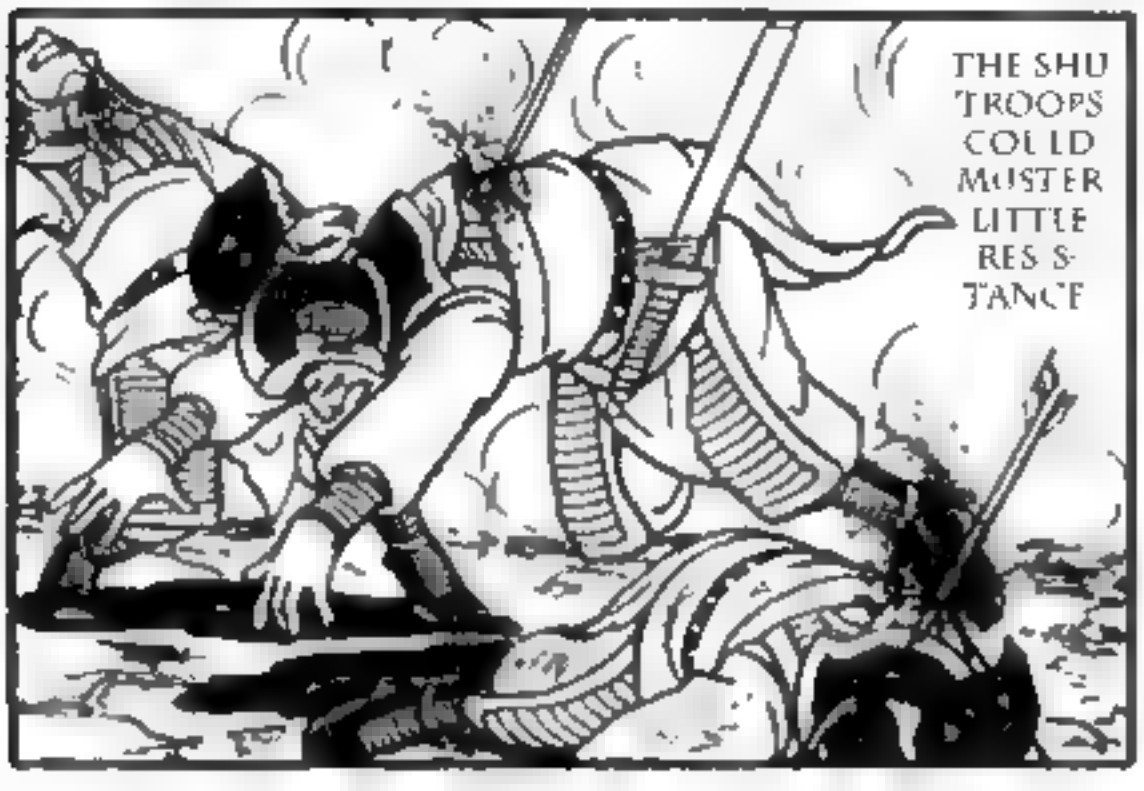



ENEMIES ARE IN POSITION!


GIVE THE SIGNAL!


ノコノコ




THE SHU TROOPS COULD MUSTER LITTLE RES S-TANCE


HAVING GONE WITHOUT WATER FOR SO LONG,


WE
ROOPS
HAD THE
CLEAR
ADVAN
TAGE


BUT JUST
THEN, WEI
YAN'S TROOPS
ARRIVED FOR
BATTLE


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THANKS TO THE TIMELY ARRIVAL, MA SU'S TROOPS MANAGED TO AVOID UTTER ANNHILATION

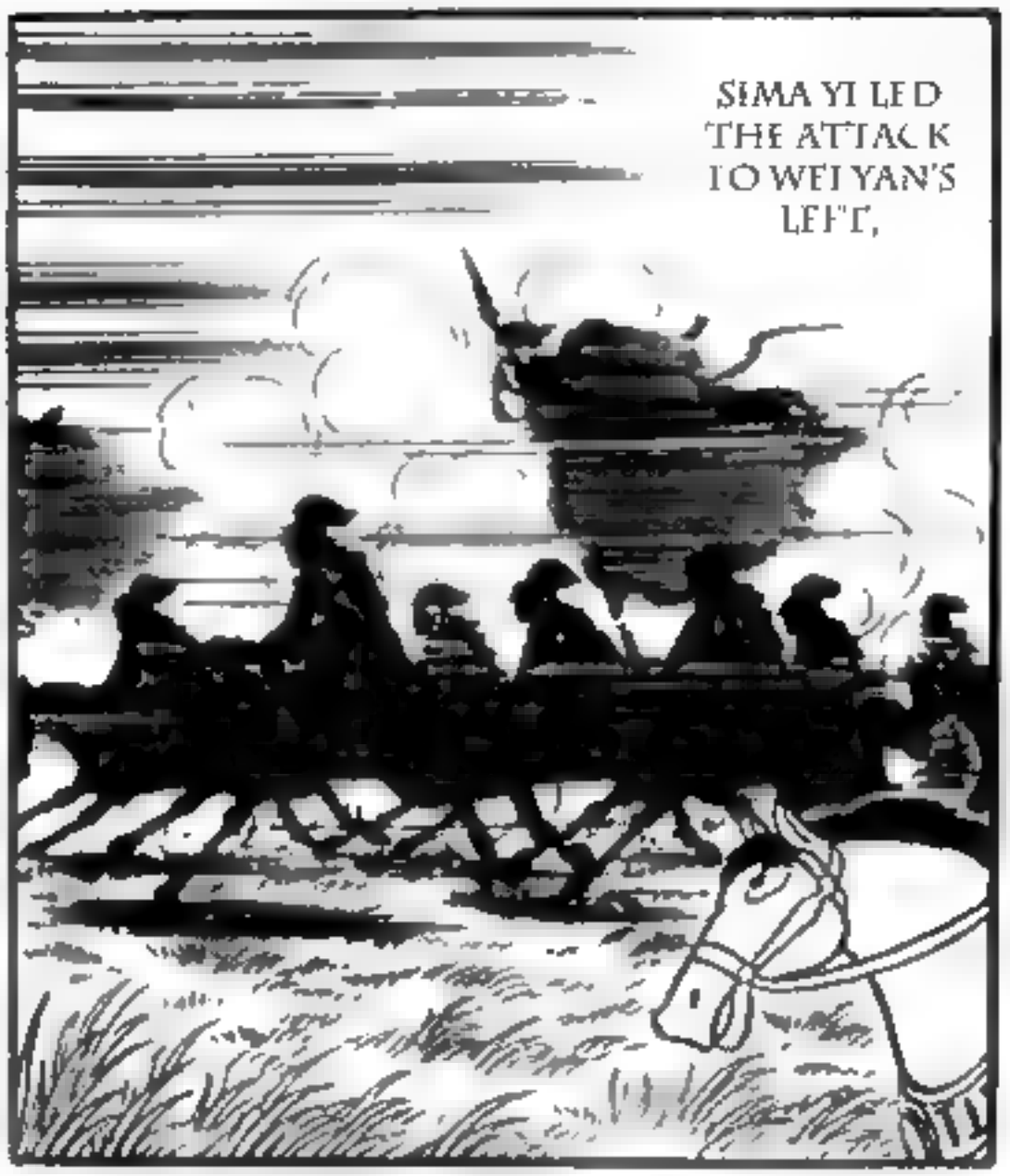

GIVE THE NEXT SIGNAL.

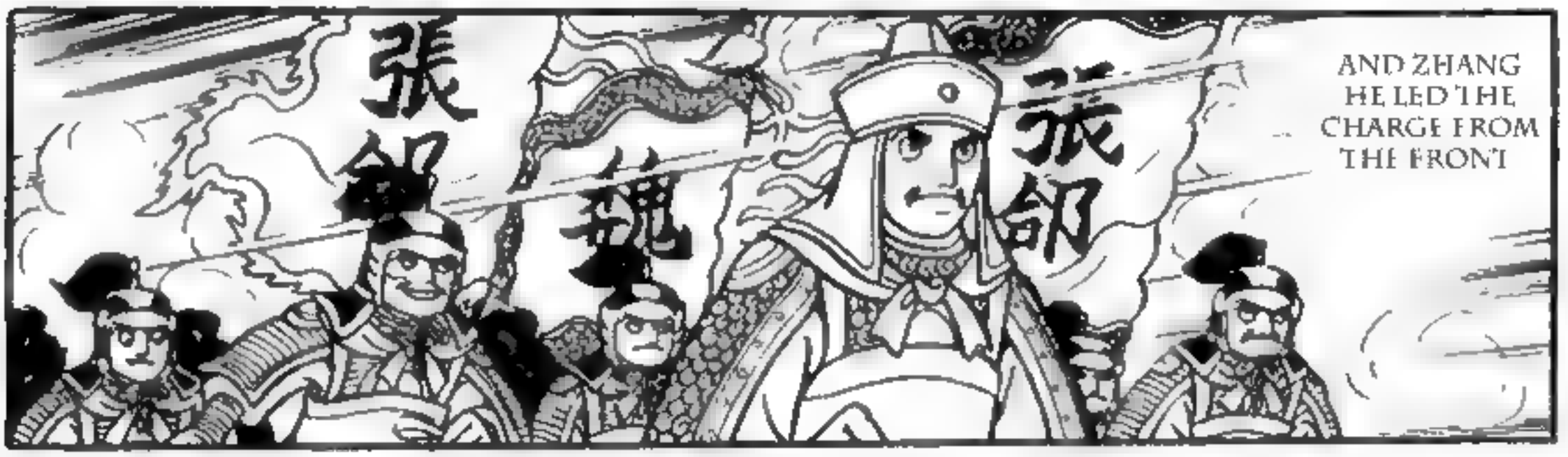

馬
YES, SIR.


AH, SO HE DID MANAGE TO ARRIVE ON TIME...
WEI YAN'S TROOPS HAVE ARRIVED, COMMANDER.


HOWEVER, SIMA YI HAD ALREADY ACCOUNTED FOR THE POSSIBLE ARRIVAL OF SHU REINFORCEMENTS.


司馬
HIS SON, SIMA ZHAO, LED THE ATTACK TO THE RIGHT,


SIMA YI LED THE ATTACK TO WEI YAN'S LEFT,


張郃
張郃
AND ZHANG HE LED THE CHARGE FROM THE FRONT


WEI YAN'S TROOPS NOW FOUND THEMSELVES ATTACKED BY WEI ON ALL THREE SIDES
司馬
魏


HOWEVER, WANG PING ARRIVED JUST THEN TO AID THE DEMORALIZED SHU TROOPS.


AS DID GAO XIANG AND HIS TROOPS FROM LILIU


JIETING NOW BECAME A HUGE BATTLEFIELD.

THE FIERCE BATTLE CONTINUED FOR THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS

TOOK MANY BEATINGS BY THE BATTLE'S END

蜀

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THE FRESH REINFORCE MENTS OF WEI YAN AND GAO XIANG.

魏延

魏延

HARDLY A MAN WITHOUT INJURIES.

WHAT'S THE STATUS OF YOUR TROOPS?

WITH OUR BATTERED STRENGTH, IT IS TOO DIFFICULT TO FIGHT OFF THE LARGER ENEMY FORCES, SIR.

SAME HERE... I'VE LOST TOO MANY MEN ALREADY.

YES... STUBBORNLY HOLDING GROUND HERE ANY LONGER WILL ONLY GET US ANNHILATED.

YES, I'VE BEEN THINKING OF DOING THAT AS WELL.

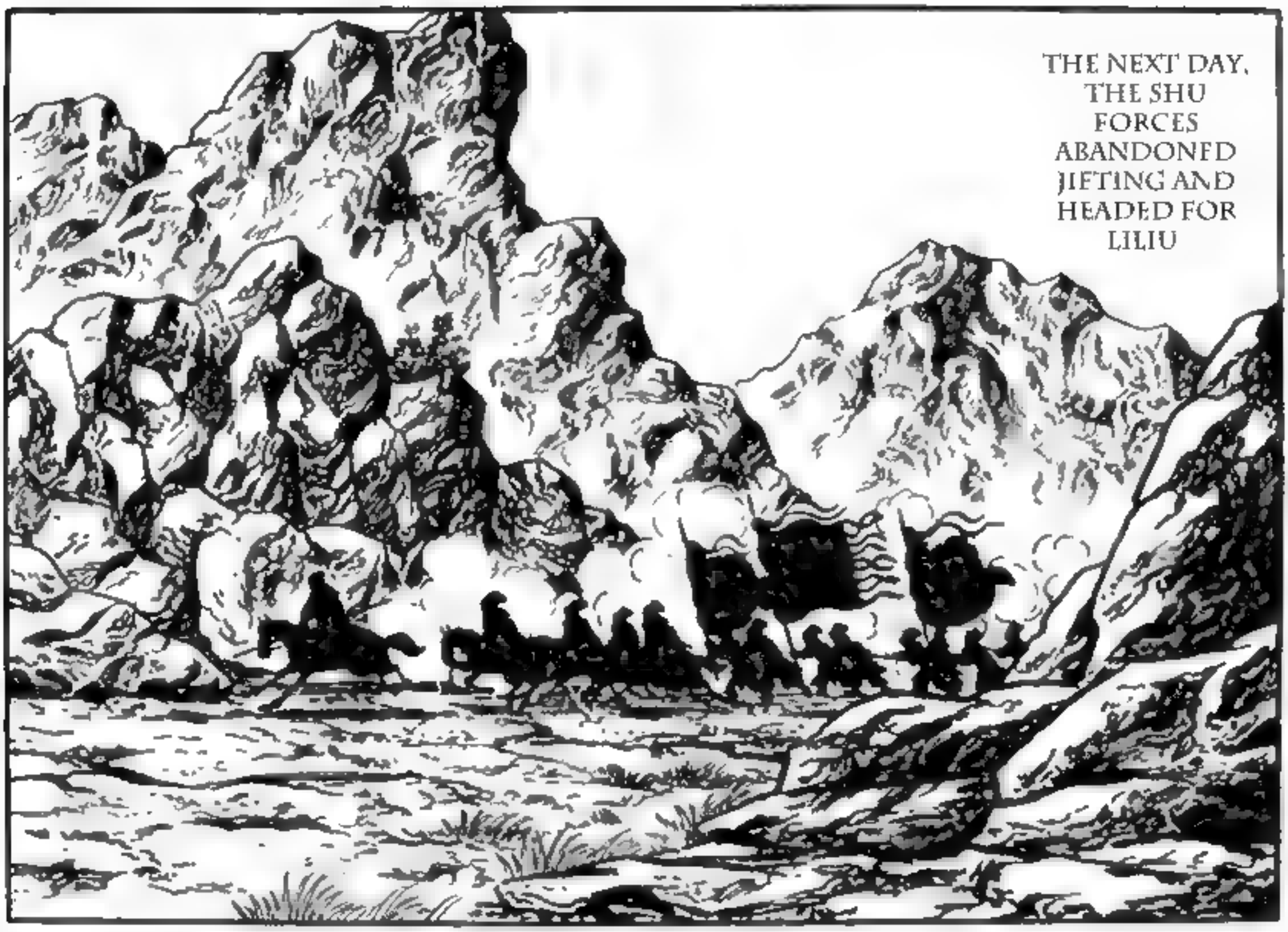
HOW ABOUT WE WITHDRAW TO LILIU AND FORM A NEW PLAN?

EXACTLY. LET US WITHDRAW TO LILIU AT ONCE.

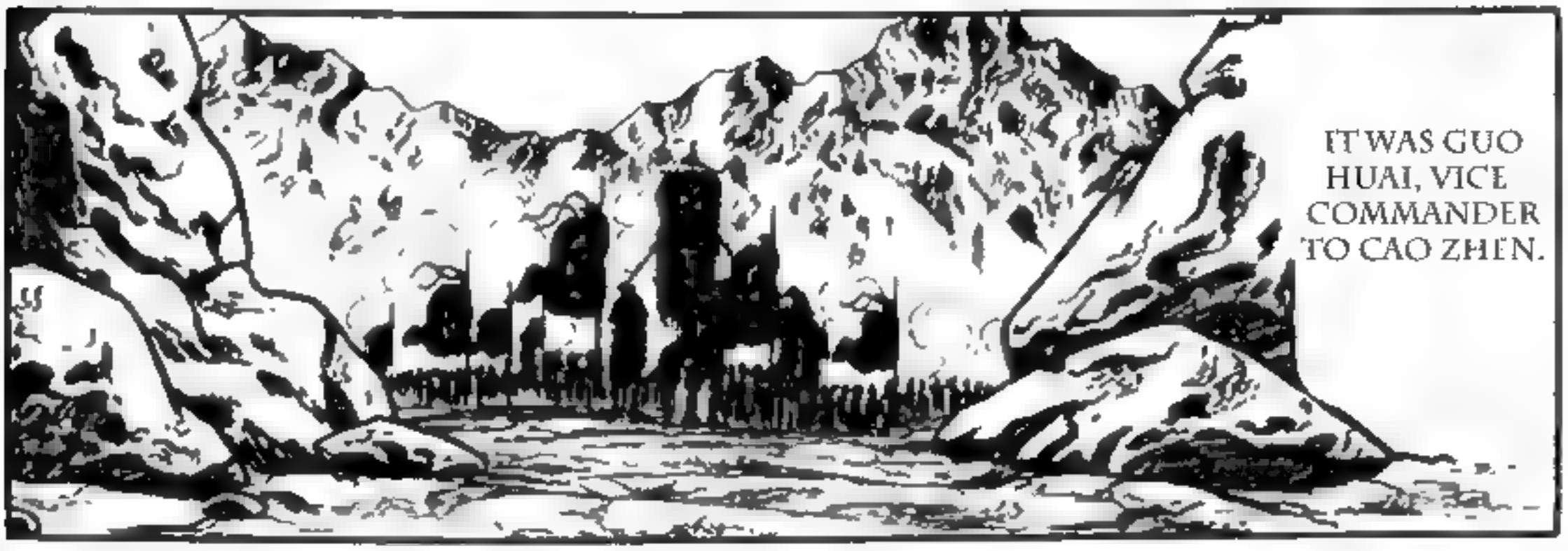
OUR OBJECTIVE ISN'T TO BEAT THE ENEMY ARMY HERE, BUT SIMPLY KEEP THE SUPPLY LINES OPEN. IF WE CAN AT LEAST HOLD ON TO LILIU, THEN ALL IS NOT LOST YET.

YES, SIR.

WE'LL LEAVE AT DAWN THEN.


THE NEXT DAY, THE SHU FORCES ABANDONED JIETING AND HEADED FOR LILIU


HOWEVER, THEY CAME ACROSS AN UNEXPECTED FOE ON THEIR WAY.


IT WAS GUO HUAI, VICE COMMANDER TO CAO ZHEN.

*BANNER READS, "WEI VICE COMMANDER GUO HUAI"

WORRIED THAT SIMA YI WOULD TAKE ALL THE CREDIT, HE HAD SENT HIS VICE COMMANDER TO AT LEAST TAKE LILIU.

MNN...

SHOULD WE TRY TO PASS THROUGH THEM, SIR?

IF WE'RE DESTROYED HERE, THEN THE ENEMIES WILL SURELY PRESS ONWARDS TO YANGPING PASS. AND IF YANGPING PASS WERE CAPTURED, THEN ALL OF HANZHONG IS IN DANGER OF BEING OVERRUN.

WE HAVE TOO MANY CASUALTIES ALREADY, SIR. FIGHTING A FRESH WEI ARMY IS SUICIDE!





KONGMING HAD ENTRUSTED MA SU WITH THE DEFENSE OF JIETING, BELIEVING IN THE LATTER'S INTELLECT. HOWEVER, MA SU WAS TOO PROUD IN HIS BOOK SMARTS AND REJECTED WANG PING'S SOUND ADVICE. THIS SINGLE MISTAKE LED TO THE LOSS OF JIETING AND LILIU, AND WITH THEM, THE ENTIRE CAMPAIGN BEGAN TO CRUMBLE.

HAHAHA. NO, LET THEM GO.

THE ENEMIES ARE WITHDRAWING, SIR. SHOULD WE PURSUE THEM?

魏副都督郭淮

郭

LILIU SHOULD NOT HAVE VERY MANY SHU TROOPS LEFT. IF WE HURRY THERE NOW, WE CAN TAKE IT WITH NO PROBLEM AT ALL.

IF SIMA YI ALREADY CAPTURED JIETING, THEN WE MUST QUICKLY CAPTURE LILIU, LEST LOOK LIKE INCOMPETENT FOOLS.

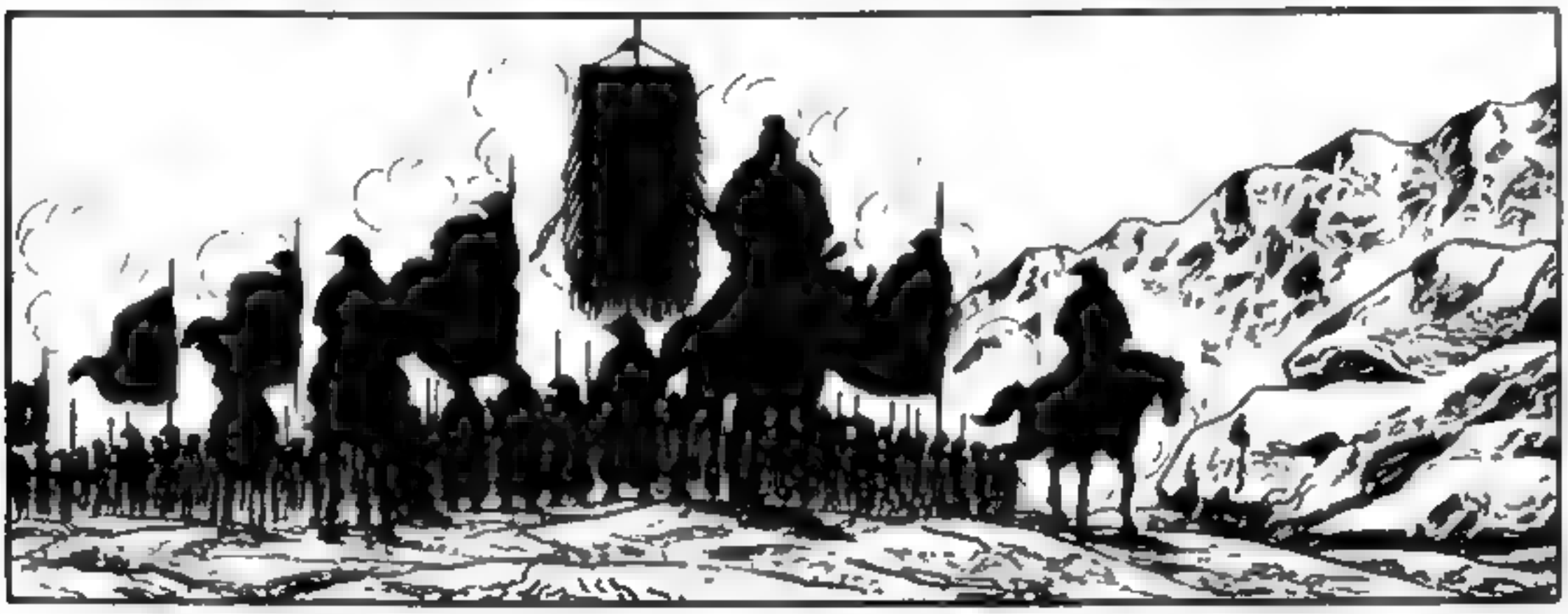
郭淮

魏副都督郭淮

NOW LET'S CONTINUE OUR MARCH!




LILIU



THERE STILL SEEM TO BE MANY FLAGS UP ON THE WALLS, GENERAL.

HM?

NO, LOOK! THOSE AREN'T ENEMY FLAGS! THEY'RE OURS!

DON'T TELL ME THERE'S STILL A SIZABLE ENEMY FORCE HERE...

WHA!

GUO HUAI? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? SHOULDN'T YOU BE WITH CAO ZHEN RIGHT NOW?

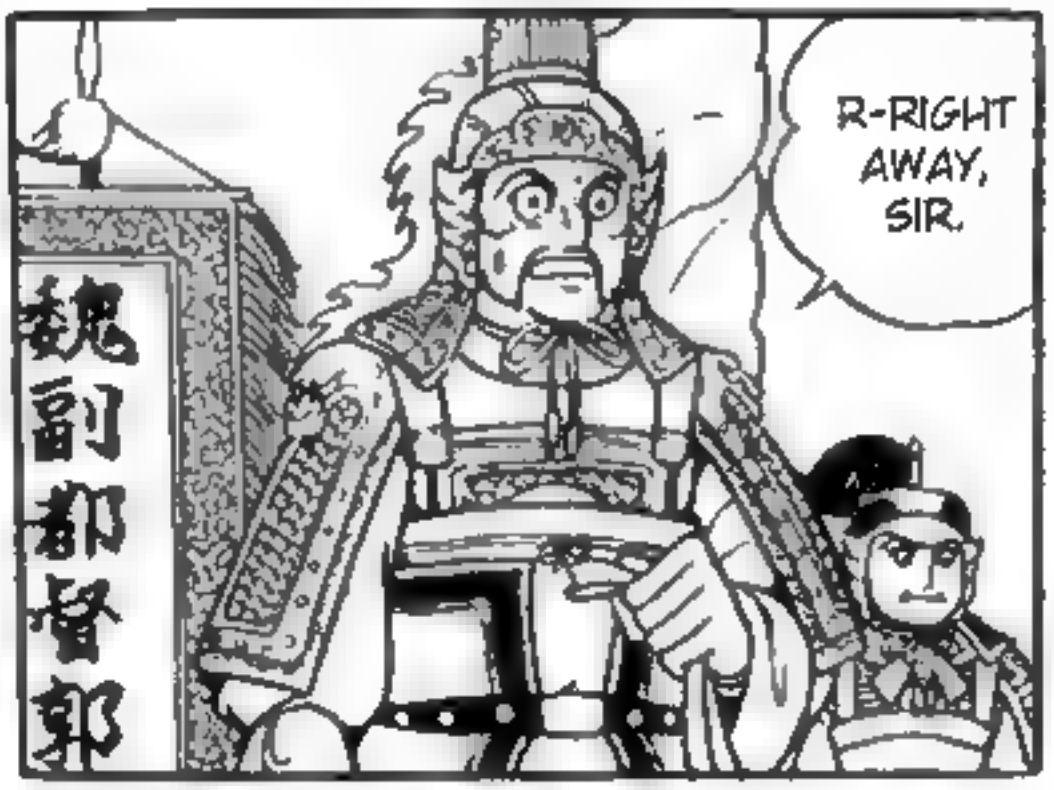
SIMA YI'S FLAGS? BUT HOW!?

I ORDER YOU TO PURSUE THE RETREATING ENEMY FORCES.

I... UM... WELL, THAT'S...

SINCE I'VE ALREADY TAKEN JIETING AND LILIU, ZHUGE LIANG WILL NOW HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RETREAT.


LET'S TURN AROUND, MEN!


R-RIGHT AWAY, SIR.


司馬

YES, BUT SINCE THEY HAVE MANY CASUALTIES, WE SHOULD BE EASILY ABLE TO BEAT THEM.

ZHANG HE. WEI YAN'S FORCES ARE NOW LIKELY HEADING TO DEFEND YANGPING PASS.

I BEG YOUR PARDON?

NO, DO NOT TRY TO DESTROY THEM.

IF WE RUSH TO YANGPING PASS, THINKING THAT IT WILL EASILY FALL, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ZHUGE LIANG'S ARMY WILL SURPRISE US FROM THE REAR. THEN IT WILL BE OUR TURN TO FACE A BITTER RETREAT.

THEREFORE, HEAD TO THE GU GORGE USING THE BYROADS.

I... I DID NOT THINK OF THAT POSSIBILITY.

XICHENG? THAT SMALL AND REMOTE TOWN IN THE MOUNTAINS?

DO NOT RUSH TO ANNHILATE THE SHU FORCES. SIMPLY HARASS THEM SO THAT THEY WILL BE PRESSURED TO ABANDON THEIR SUPPLIES. IN THE MEANWHILE, I WILL HEAD THROUGH THE YI GORGE AND CAPTURE XICHENG. ONLY THEN WILL WE MOVE THE NEXT PHASE OF PLANS.

UNDER-STOOD, SIR.

ZHUGE LIANG WILL THEN HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ORDER A GENERAL RETREAT OF ALL SHU FORCES STILL ROAMING IN OUR TERRITORY.

YES, IT SERVES AS THE GRAIN DEPOT FOR THE SHU FORCES AND ALSO CONNECTS THE MAIN ROAD TO NANAN, TIANSHUI, AND ANDING COMMANDERIES. TAKING XICHENG WILL NATURALLY LEAD TO THE RECAPTURE OF THOSE THREE COMMANDERIES.

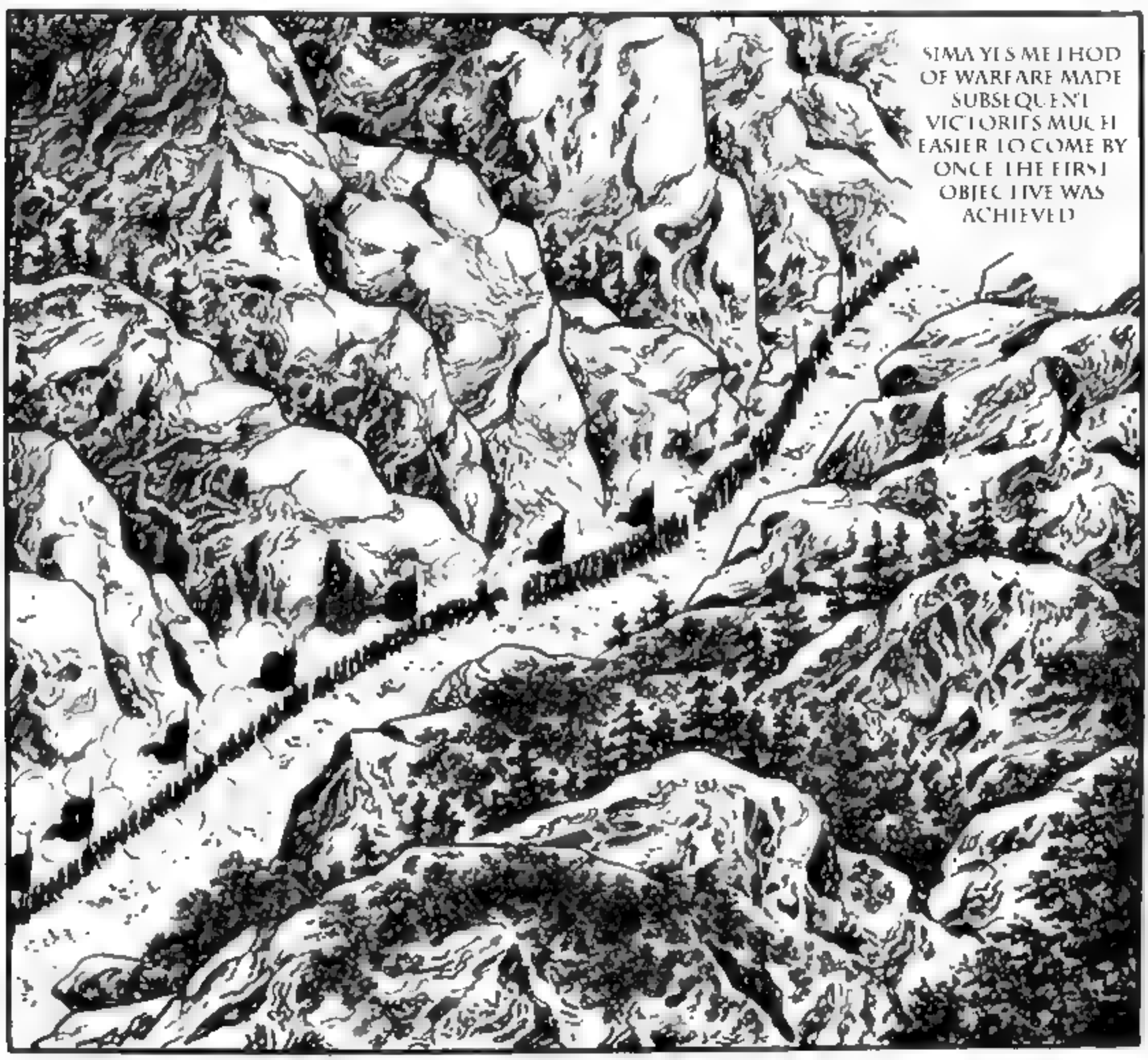
YES?

SHEN DAN AND SHEN YI.

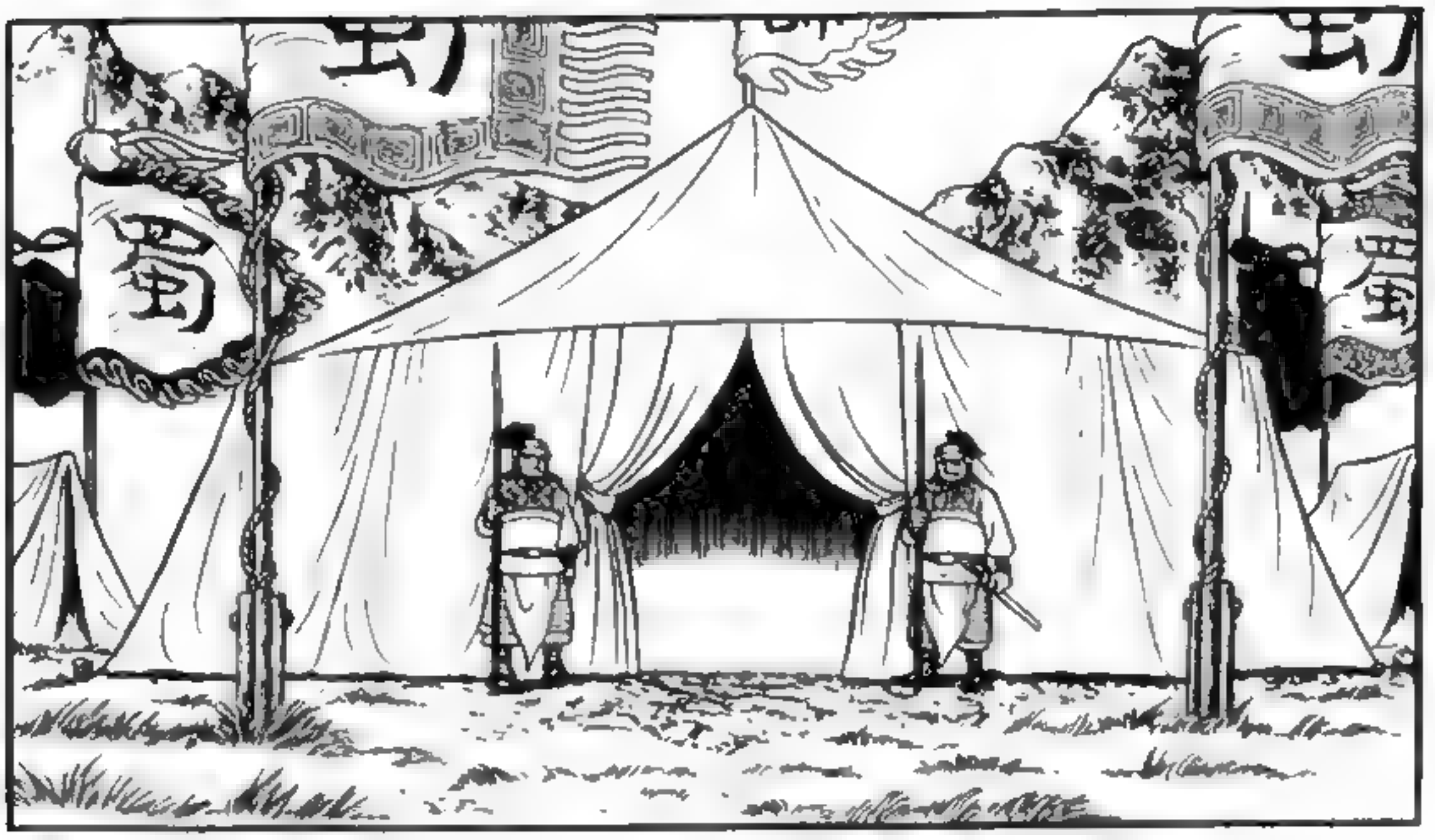
WE WILL DEFEND IT WITH OUR LIVES.

YOU TWO ARE TO STAY BEHIND AND PROTECT LILIU.


WITH THESE ORDERS GIVEN, THE WEI ARMY BEGAN TO ADVANCE ONCE MORE


SIMA YI'S METHOD OF WARFARE MADE SUBSEQUENT VICTORIES MUCH EASIER TO COME BY ONCE THE FIRST OBJECTIVE WAS ACHIEVED

EMPTY FORT STRATEGY







WANG PING VOICED DISAPPROVAL, BUT MA SU INSISTED THAT HOLDING THE HIGHER GROUND WILL BE CRUCIAL TO BEATING THE ENEMIES...

AM I READING THIS INCORRECTLY OR HAS MA SU REALLY MADE CAMP ON THE HILLTOPS OF JIETING!?

OUR ARMY IS DOOMED ALL DUE TO MA SU'S FOLLY...

MA SU, YOU IMBECILE!

JUST LOOK AT THIS!

WHY THE OUTBURST, CHANCELLOR?

BUT INSTEAD OF SECURING THE CHOKEPOINTS, MA SU ABANDONED THEM FOR THE HILLTOPS.

ONE MUST NEVER FAIL TO ACCOUNT FOR THE UNIQUE FEATURES OF EACH BATTLEFIELD'S TERRAIN. IN THE HILLS OF JIETING, THE NARROW HILL PATHS CAN BE BLOCKED TO EASILY PREVENT A LARGE ENEMY FORCE FROM MAKING USE OF THEIR GREATER NUMBERS.

ONCE JIETING FALLS, OUR GREATEST ENEMY WILL BE A LACK OF FOOD. WE WILL ONLY LEAVE OUR BONES BEHIND IF WE STUBBORNLY REMAIN HERE IN SPITE OF IT.

I THOUGHT HIGHLY OF MA SU'S POTENTIAL SINCE HE WAS VERY WELL LEARNED FOR A MAN OF HIS YONG AGE, BUT TO THINK HE WOULD APPLY SUCH HALF-ASSED PRINCIPLES OF WAR...

THE SHEER FOLLY...! ALL THE ENEMY HAS TO DO IS SURROUND THE HILL HE'S ON AND CUT OFF HIS ACCESS TO WATER!

YES, BUT I FEAR SIMA YI MAY HAVE ALREADY MADE THE BEST OUT OF THIS CHANCE...

SHALL I RUSH OVER THERE AND ORDER MA SU TO CHANGE POSITIONS?

THANK YOU, YANG YI.

I WILL RIDE NIGHT AND DAY TO REACH JIETING AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.

EMERGENCY REPORT!

CHANCELLOR! BOTH JIETING AND LILIU HAVE FALLEN TO WEI!

AND WITH THAT, OUR CAMPAIGN ENDS IN FAILLIRE... THE CAPTURE OF CHANG'AN AND LUOYANG... A MERE DAYDREAM...

I... I SEE... IT'S JUST AS I FEARED...

OUR PRIORITY NOW IS HOW TO RETREAT WHILE MINIMIZING OUR CASUALTIES.

AS I'VE ALREADY INFORMED YOU MEN, THE LOSS OF JIETING AND LILIU MEANS THAT FURTHER ADVANCE IS UNTHINKABLE. EVERY DAY WE STAY IN HOSTILE TERRITORY IS A DAY CLOSER TO STARVATION.

YES?

YES?

GUAN XING AND ZHANG BAO!

YES, SIR!

EACH OF YOU TAKE 3000 ELITE TROOPS AND HEAD STRAIGHT TO WUGONG HILLS. DO NOT ATTACK THE ENEMIES NOR LET THEM KNOW YOUR NUMBERS. SIMPLY BEAT THE DRUMS AND RING THE GONGS TO FAKE AN AMBUSH. THE ENEMIES SHOULD THEN FEEL UNEASY AND RETREAT. ONCE THEY DO, RETIRE TO YANGPING PASS.

GO TO SABER PASS AND PREPARE THE ROADS THERE TO ALLOW OUR TROOPS TO SWIFTLY RETREAT.

YES?

ZHANG YI.

MA DAI AND JIANG WEI.

YES.

YOU WILL ACT AS THE REAR GUARDS FOR OUR MAIN ARMY BY SETTING UP MULTIPLE AMBUSHES IN THE HILLS. RETIRE AFTER YOU'VE MANAGED TO DEAL WITH THE ENEMIES IN HOT PURSUIT.

YES?

YES?

BAIT CAO ZHEN INTO A FIGHT.

YES?

MA ZHONG.

YES, SIR.

IF CAO ZHEN COMES AFTER YOU, THEN IT WILL BUY US ENOUGH TIME TO EVACUATE THE PEOPLE OF TIANSHUI, NANAN, AND ANDING TO HANZHONG.

THE ORDERS FOR A GENERAL WITHDRAWAL WAS NOW GIVEN AND PUT INTO ACTION

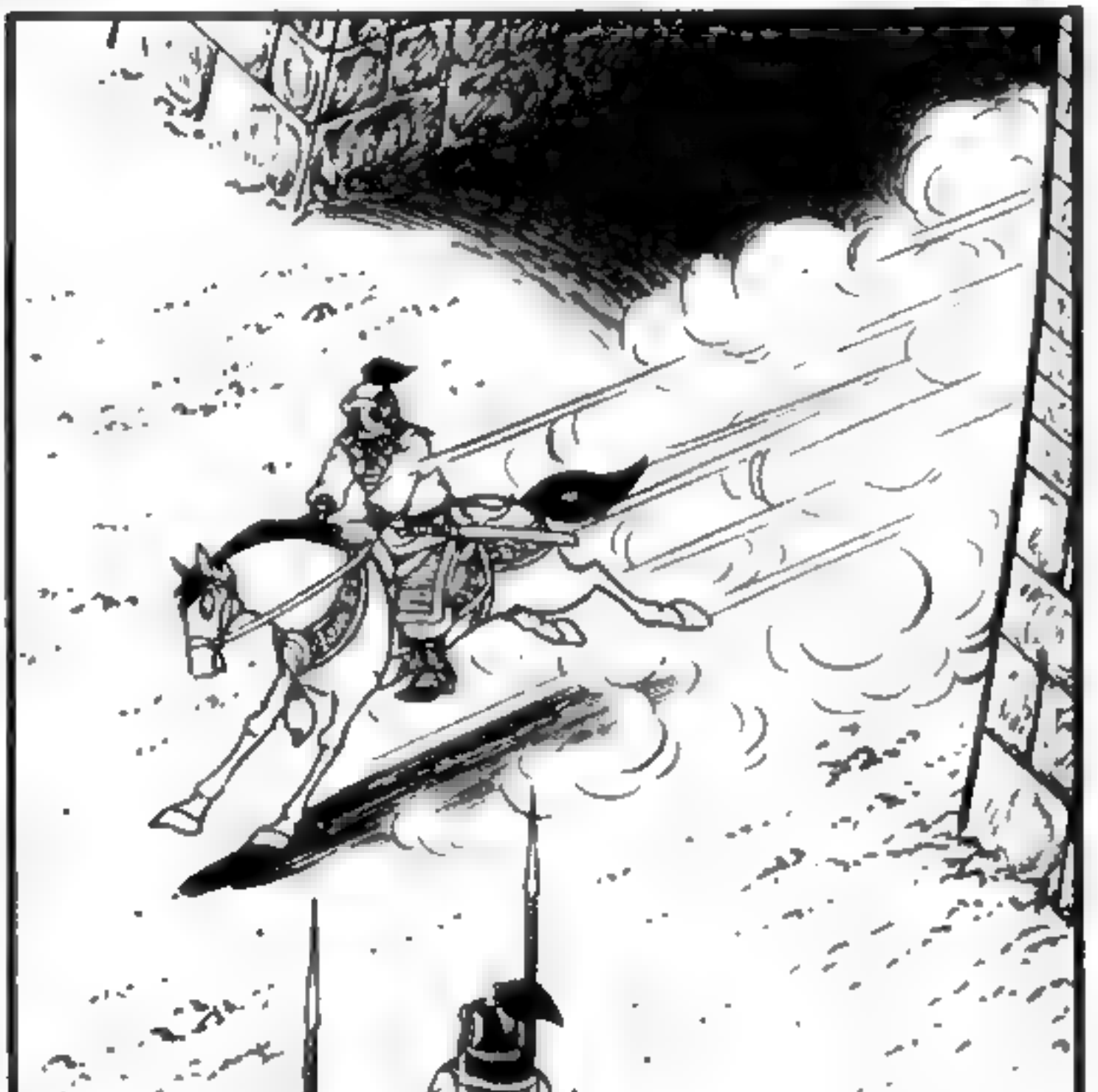
AS FOR KONGMING, HE HEADED TO XICHENG WITH JUST 5000 TROOPS

XICHENG WAS THE CONNECTING POINT TO TIANSHUI, NANAN, AND ANDING COMMANDERIES IT ALSO SERVED AS A GRAIN DEPOT FOR SHU FORCES

KONGMING IMMEDIATELY ORDERED ALL GRAIN STORED HERE TO BE MOVED BACK TO HANZHONG







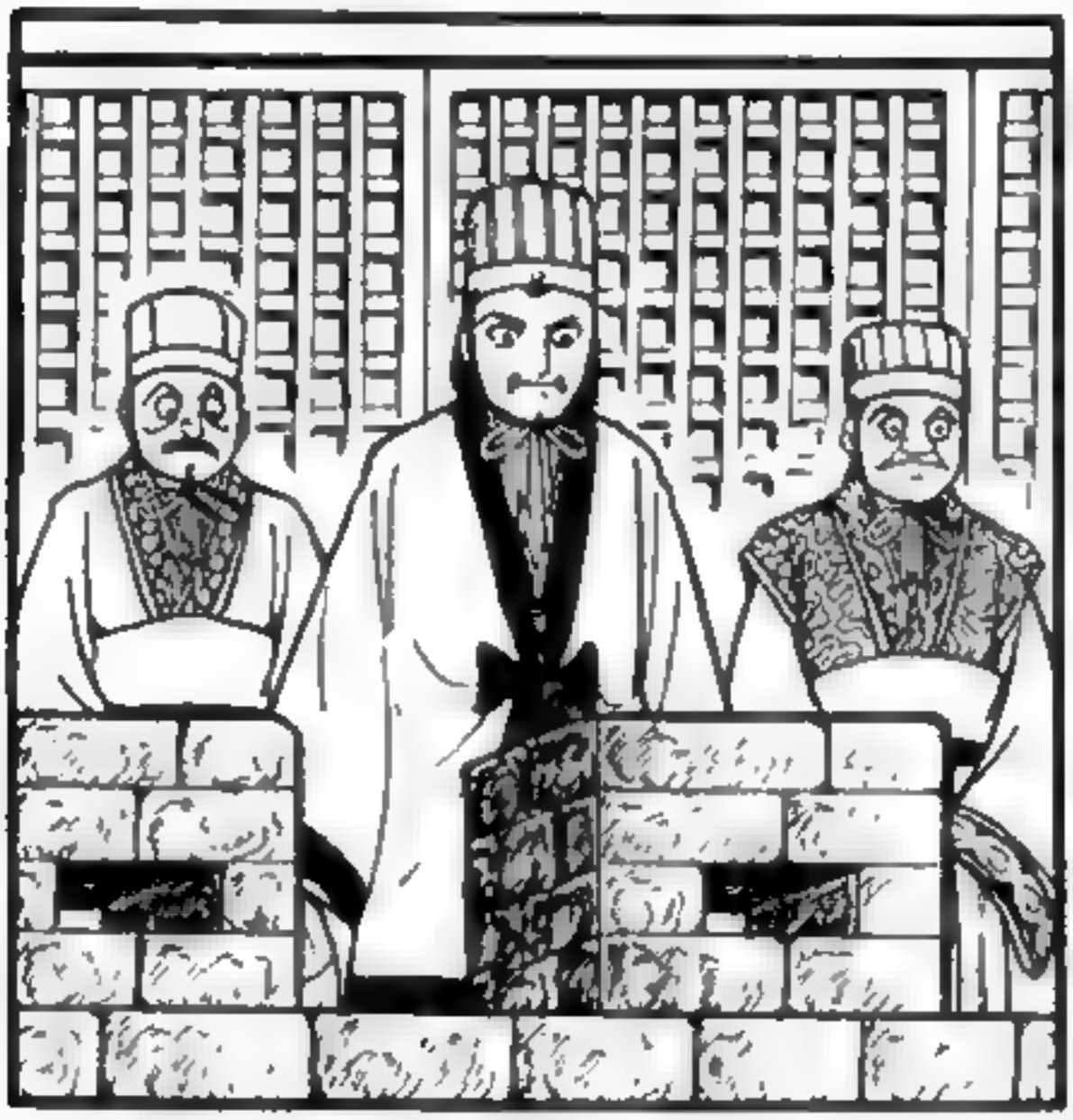

I BRING AN URGENT REPORT! SIMA YI IS HEADING HERE TO XICHENG WITH A FORCE OF 150,000!

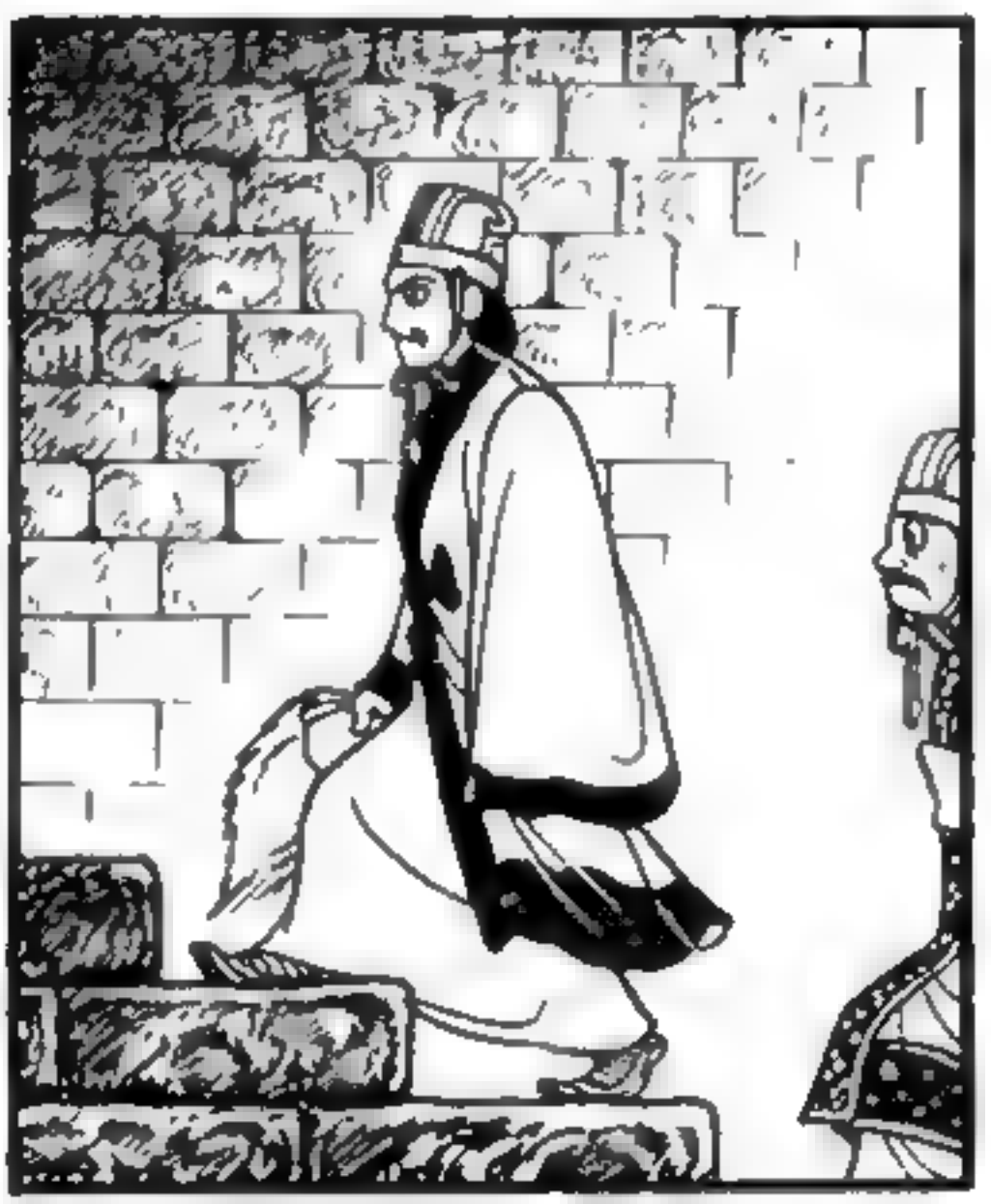

HALF OUR GARRISON IS BUSY ENOUGH AS IT IS ALREADY TRANSPORTING THE GRAIN TOO...

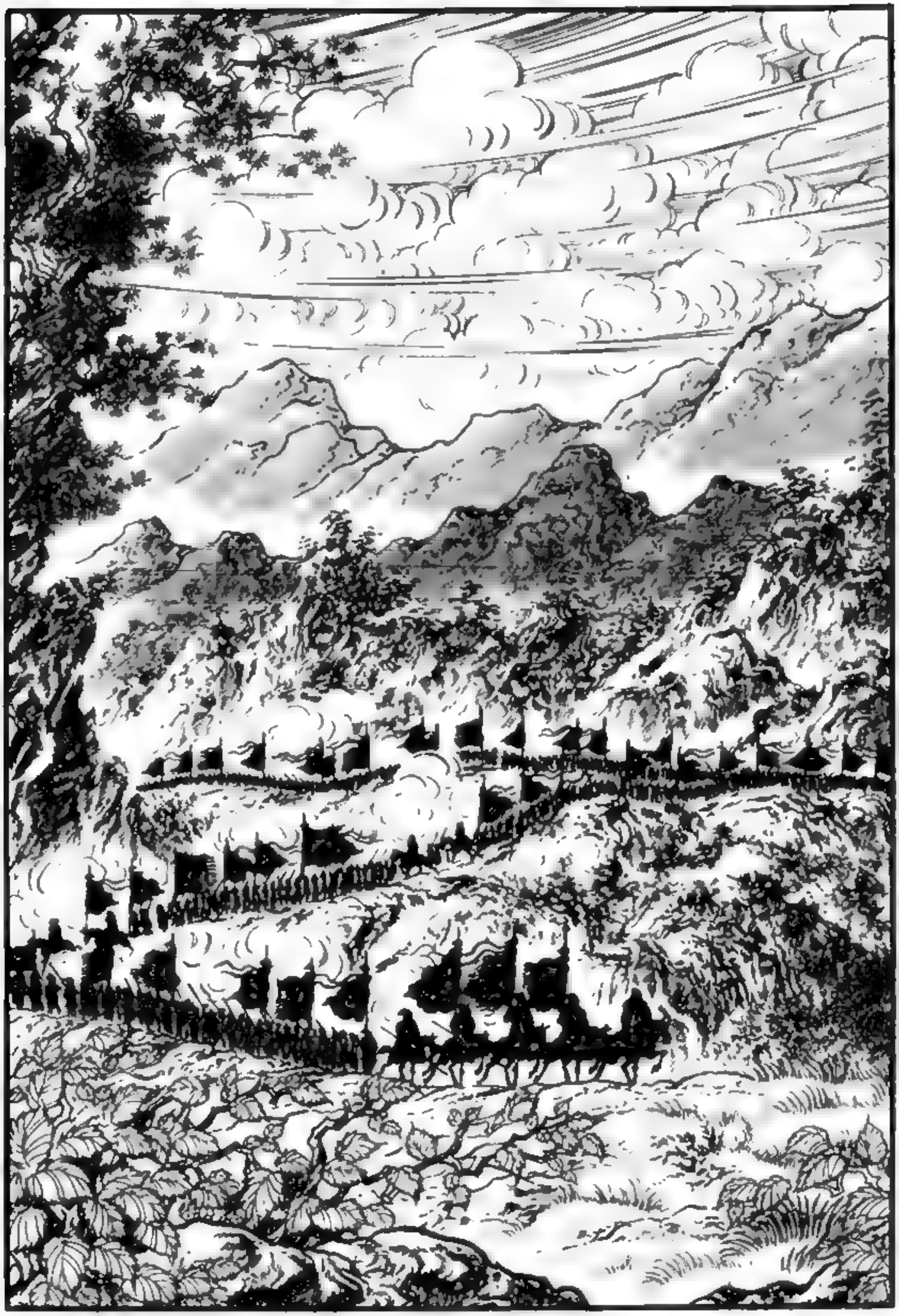

150,000?
...




QUIET!







TAKE DOWN ALL FLAGS AND BANNERS!

ALL OFFICERS REMAIN INSIDE AND OUT OF SIGHT!

SWIFT AND DECISIVE AS EVER, SIMA YI...

Y-YES, SIR...?

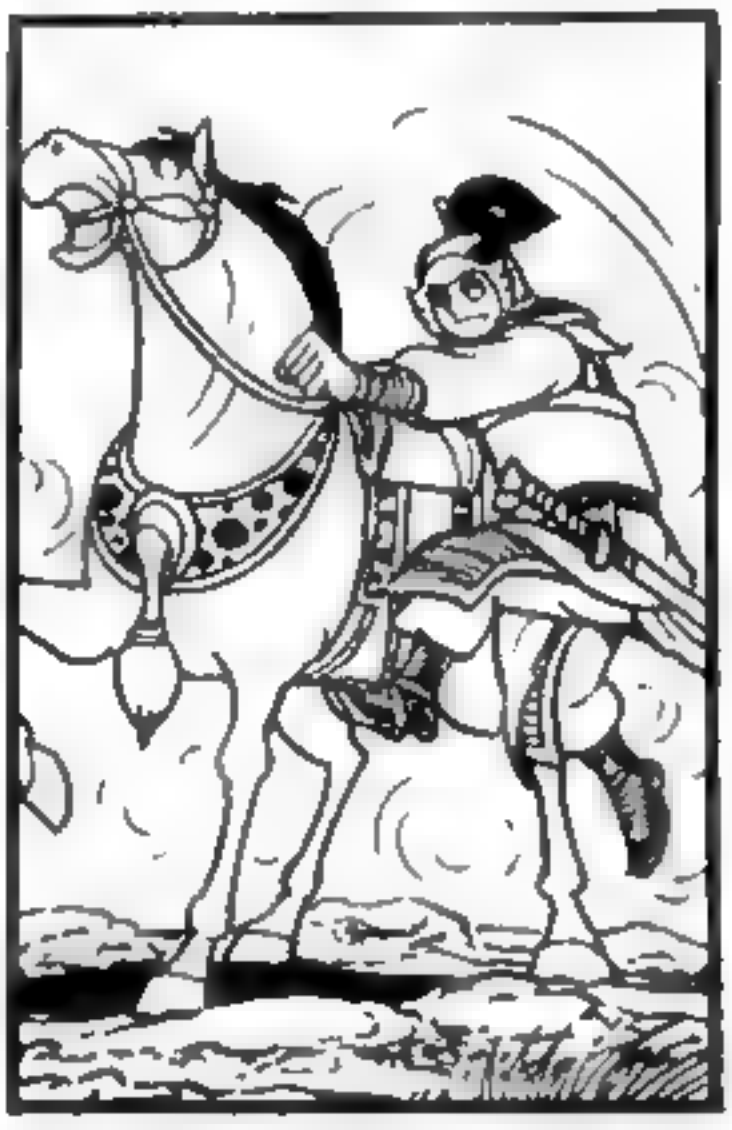
ANY MAN WHO DARES TO MOVE FROM HIS PLACE OR MAKE LOUD NOISES IS TO BE EXECUTED ON THE SPOT!

I WANT ALL FOUR GATES WIDE OPEN AND CLEANED! THE ROADS SHOULD ALSO BE SWEPT AS TO LOOK LIKE THE CITY IS INVITING AN IMPORTANT GUEST!


司馬


WHAT!?
COMMANDER! ALL FOUR GATES OF XICHENG ARE WIDE OPEN AND THE ROADS HAVE BEEN SWEPT CLEAN! NOT A SINGLE ENEMY SOLDIER OR FLAG CAN BE SEEN! THE ONLY NOTABLE SIGHT IS ZHUGE LIANG PLAYING THE GUQIN!
司馬





I MERELY REPORT WHAT I'VE SEEN, SIR.

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

HM?

I'LL GO SEE FOR MYSELF THEN.

Z-ZHUGE LIANG...!?

FATHER! WHY WOULD YOU ORDER A WITHDRAWAL NOW!?

WITHDRAW THE TROOPS!

BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK WHATEVER PLAN HE'S PLOTTING CAN DEFEAT OUR 150,000-STRONG ARMY?

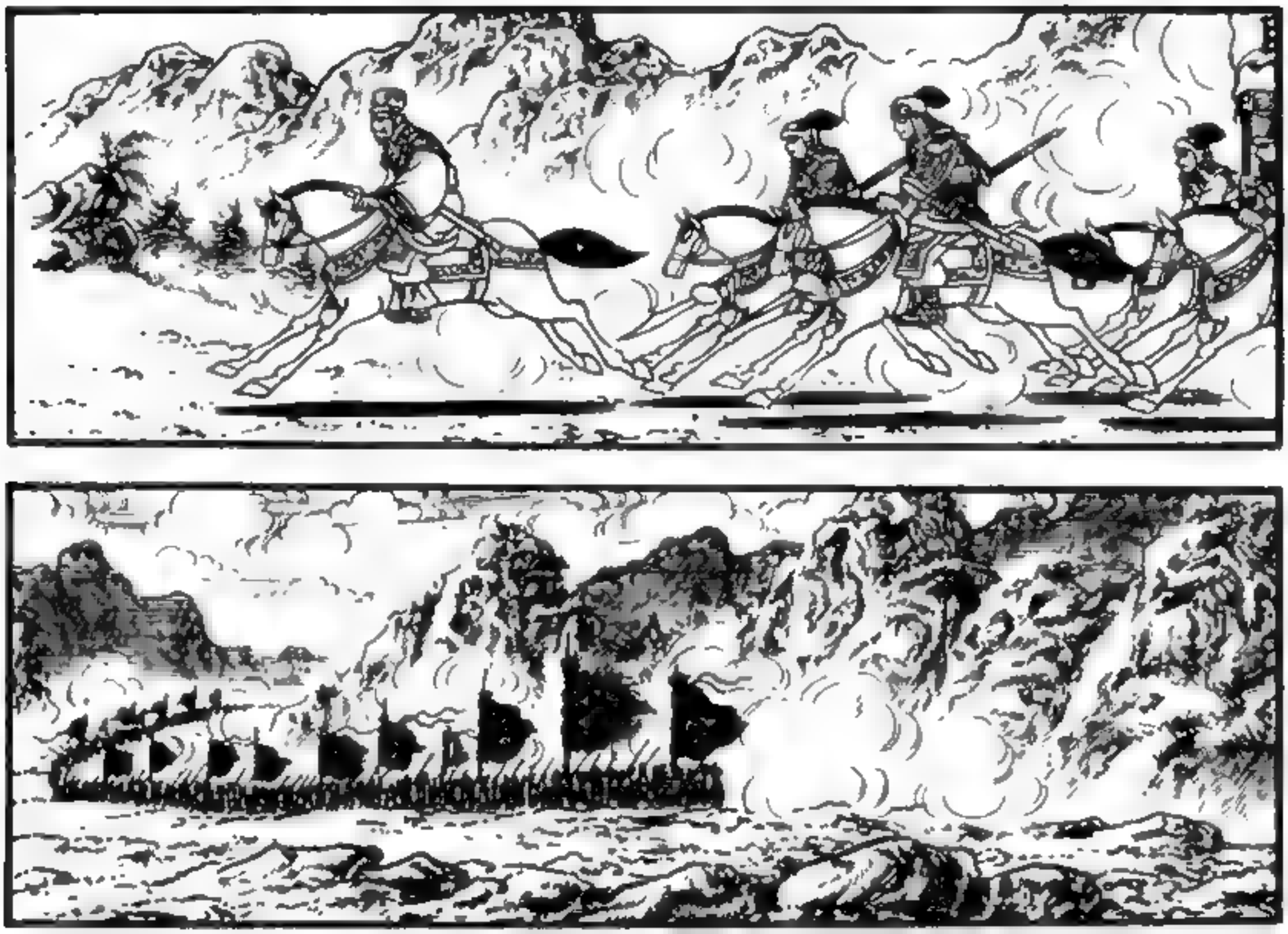
T-THIS IS CLEARLY A TRAP OF SOME KIND. ZHUGE LIANG MUST HAVE SOME SINISTER PLAN.

ZHUGE LIANG IS FAMOUS FOR HIS PRUDENCE. HE CALCULATES ALL POSSIBILITIES TO NEVER TAKE AN UNNECESSARY RISK, MEANING THAT THIS TOO MUST BE ANOTHER TRAP. IF OUR ARMY WERE TO TAKE LARGE CASUALTIES HERE, THEN ALL OUR RECENT GAINS MAY BE OVERTURNED. I WOULD BE UNABLE TO FACE THE EMPEROR IF I LET THAT HAPPEN.

I ALSO HEARD HIS RECENT TRIUMPH OVER THE WESTERN QIANG WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY BAITING THE ENEMY CHARIOTS INTO WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS AN EMPTY CAMP, BUT FULL OF SECRET PITS.

MY SONS, YOU DO NOT REALIZE THAT DURING THE WEI INVASION OF JINGZHOU, ZHUGE LIANG EMPTIED XINYE TO ENTICE THE WEI ARMY LED BY CAO REN INSIDE, ONLY TO START A HUGE FIRE AND BURN THE ARMY WHOLE.

SO RETREAT, I SAY! RETREAT!




T-THEY'RE WITHDRAWING, CHANCELLOR!


AH!


WHA!


HAHA...


SIMA YI IS NO FOOL NOR COWARD. HOW COULD HE SIMPLY WITHDRAW AFTER SEEING YOUR FACE, CHANCELLOR?


FLEEING WITH ONLY 2500 TROOPS IS FUTILE. WE WOULD QUICKLY BE MADE PRISONERS OF WAR. AS RISKY AS THIS EMPTY FORT STRATEGY WAS, IT WAS THE SAFEST COURSE OF ACTION AVAILABLE TO ME.


YOUR GENIUS IS UNSURPASSABLE, CHANCELLOR. HAD WE BEEN IN CHARGE, WE WOULD HAVE SIMPLY ABANDONED XICHENG AND FLED.
HE WITHDREW PRECISELY BECAUSE HE IS NO FOOL. HE UNDERSTANDS BETTER THAN ANYONE HOW CAREFUL I AM. SINCE HE CAN'T IMAGINE I WOULD TAKE SUCH A LARGE RISK, HE ASSUMED THIS EMPTY CITY COULD ONLY BE A TRAP.


SIMA YI WILL NOW RETREAT TO WUGONG HILLS, BUT GUAN XING AND ZHANG BAO SHOULD ALREADY BE WAITING THERE FOR HIM. THEY WILL BUY US ENOUGH TIME TO RETREAT SAFELY.

GENERAL RETREAT




HM?

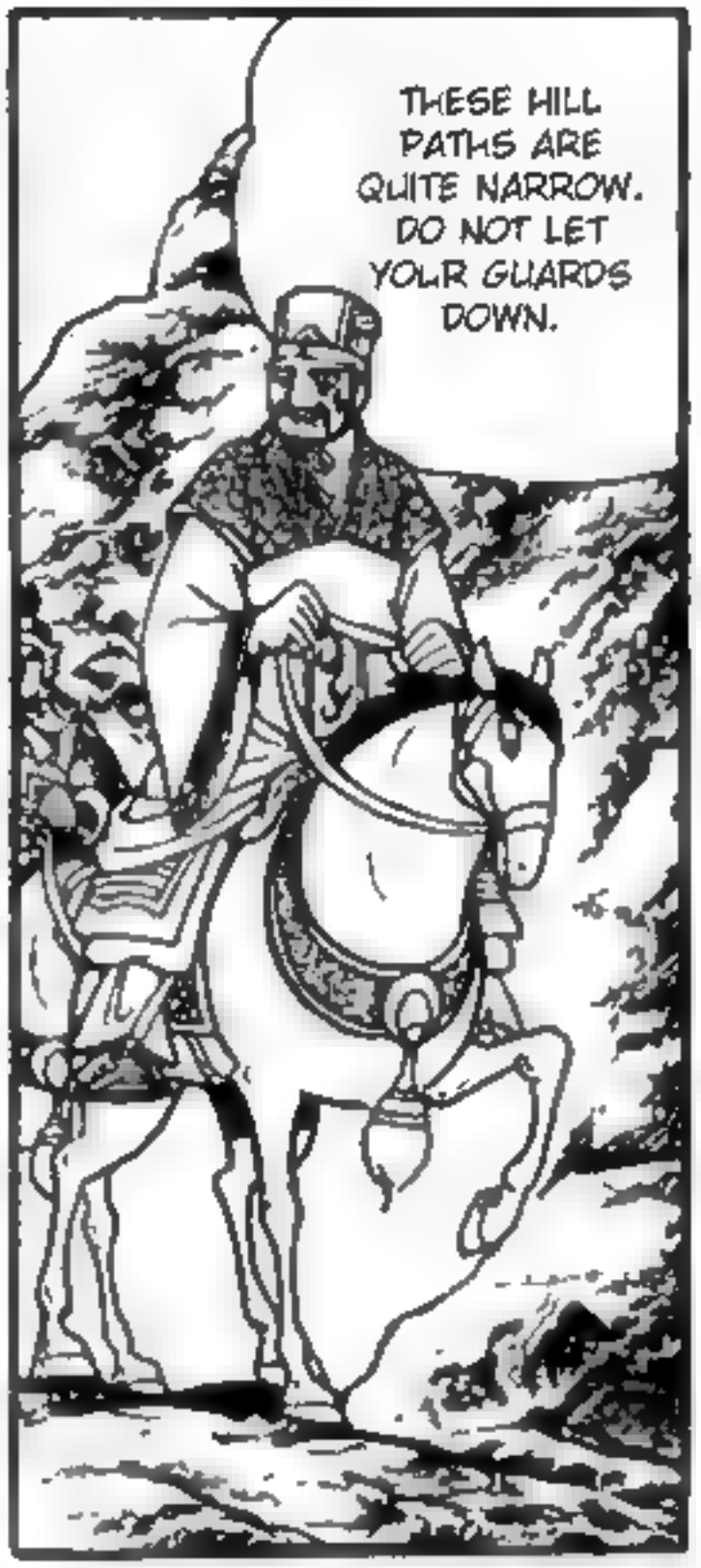

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!?


SEE, I KNEW IT WAS A TRAP! HAD WE WENT INSIDE XICHENG, WE'D BE AMBUSHED FROM THE FRONT AND REAR.


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THESE HILL PATHS ARE QUITE NARROW. DO NOT LET YOUR GUARDS DOWN.






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THESE NARROW ROADS ARE THE PERFECT PLACES FOR AN ENEMY TO AMBUSH A LARGE ARMY...

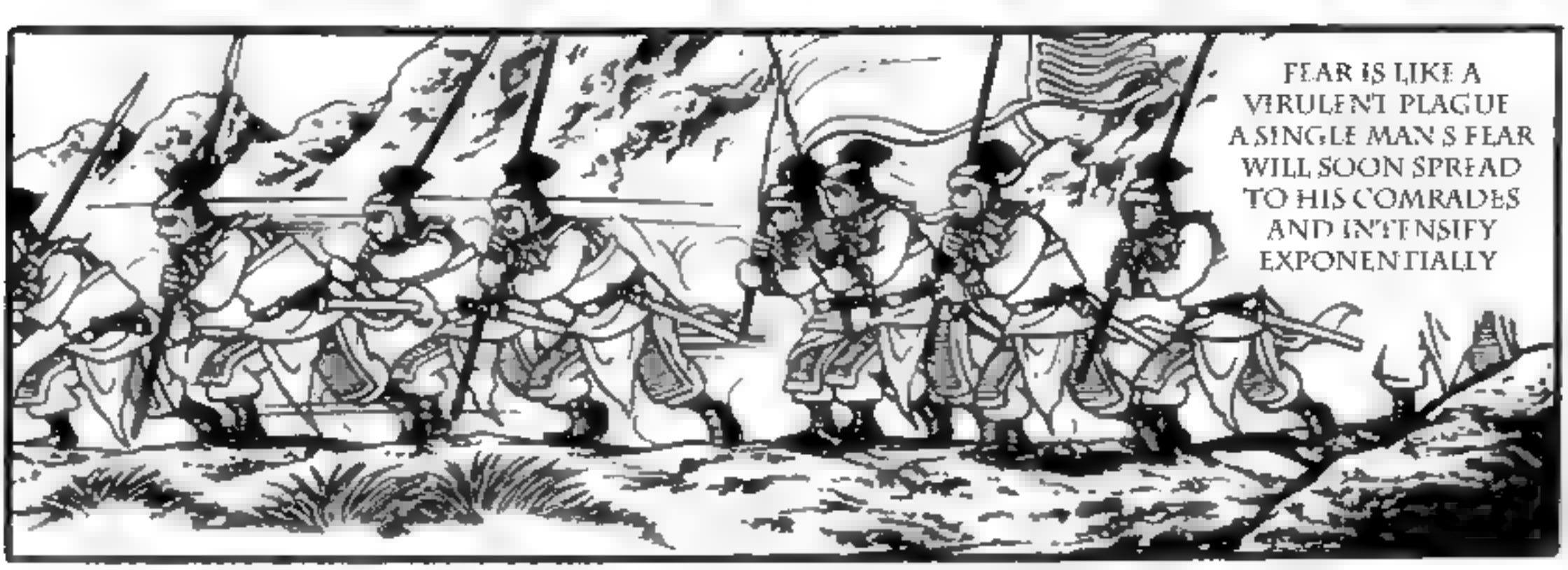

JUST HOW MANY ENEMY TROOPS ARE HERE...?
H-HIDDEN TROOPS HERE TOO...!?


OVER HERE TOO!? JUST HOW LARGE IS THIS AMBUSH FORCE!?


THESE WERE MADE BY GUAN XING AND ZHANG BAO'S TROOPS SPREAD THINLY OVER THE HILLS IN ORDER TO SCARE OFF THE WEI ARMY


DRUMS, GONGS, AND WARCRIES COULD BE HEARD FROM ALL OVER THE HILLS


AGHH!


FEAR IS LIKE A VIRULENT PLAGUE A SINGLE MAN'S FEAR WILL SOON SPREAD TO HIS COMRADES AND INTENSIFY EXPONENTIALLY


THE FACT THAT THE WEI SOLDIERS COULD NOT SEE HOW MANY THE SHU TROOPS NUMBERED MERELY ADDED TO THEIR PARANOIA AND FEAR


THE ORDERLY RETREAT GRADUALLY TRANSFORMED INTO A PANICKED FLIGHT WITH WEI SOLDIERS ABANDONING THEIR SUPPLIES
蜀


LET'S COLLECT THE ABAN-DONED SUPPLIES!


HAHA...




THUS, GUAN XING AND ZHANG BAO TRIUMPHANTLY WITHDREW TO YANGPING PASS WITH PLENTY OF BOOTY

CAO ZHEN'S CAMPS

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AT LAST, IT'S TIME TO PAY THEM BACK IN DDOUBLE! I ORDER A PURSUIT AT ONCE!

YES, THEY WITHDREW FROM THEIR CAMPS AT QISHAN HILLS.

WHAT!? KONGMING ORDERED A GENERAL RETREAT!?

AH, OF COURSE, CHEN ZHAO.

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO LEAD THE VANGUARD, SIR.

SHU FORCES ARE IN RETREAT! THE TIME FOR REVENGE IS HERE!

GUO HUAI, I WANT YOU TO GO ATTACK ZHAO ZILONG'S FORCE IN GU GORGE.

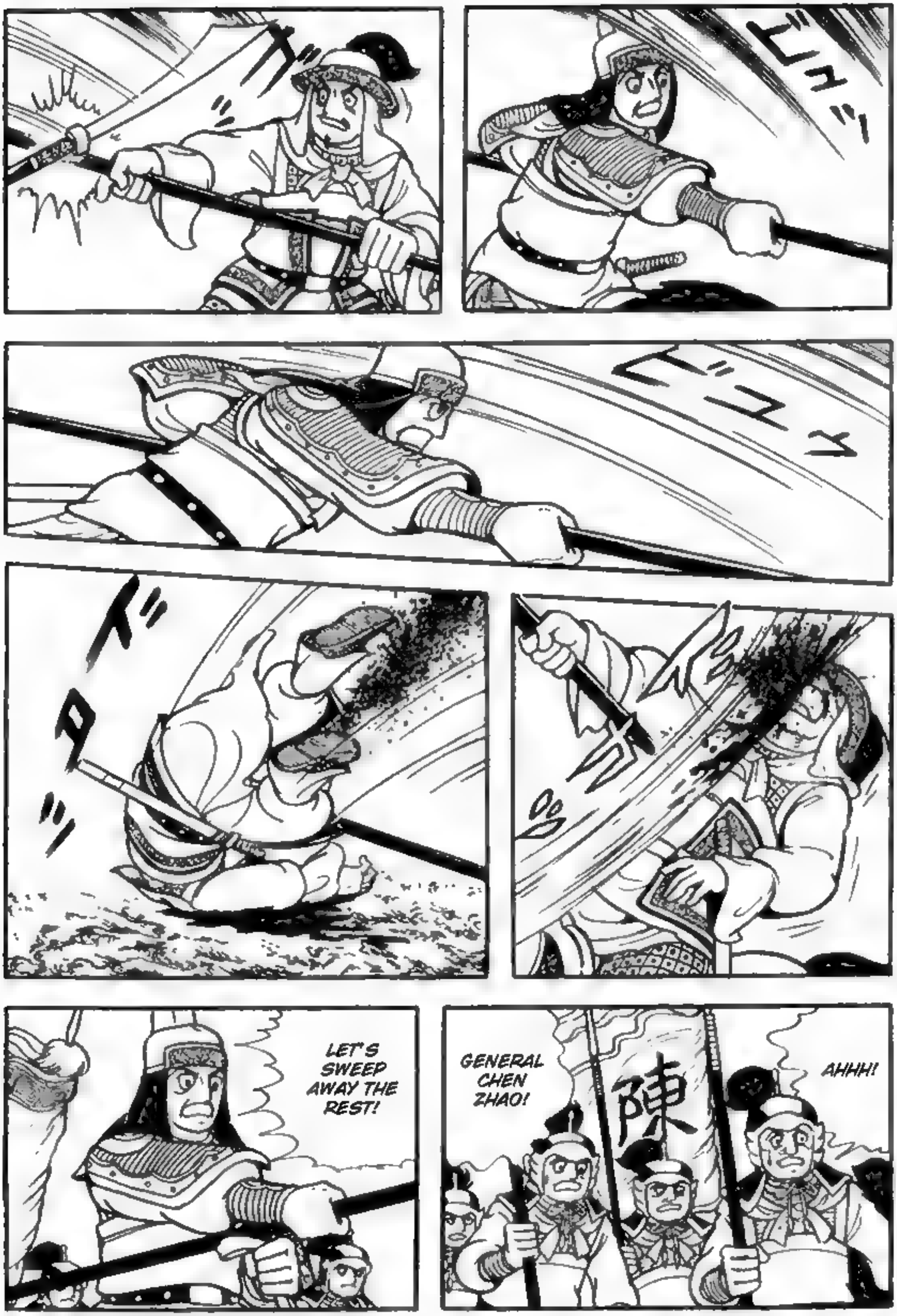
AS YOU WISH.

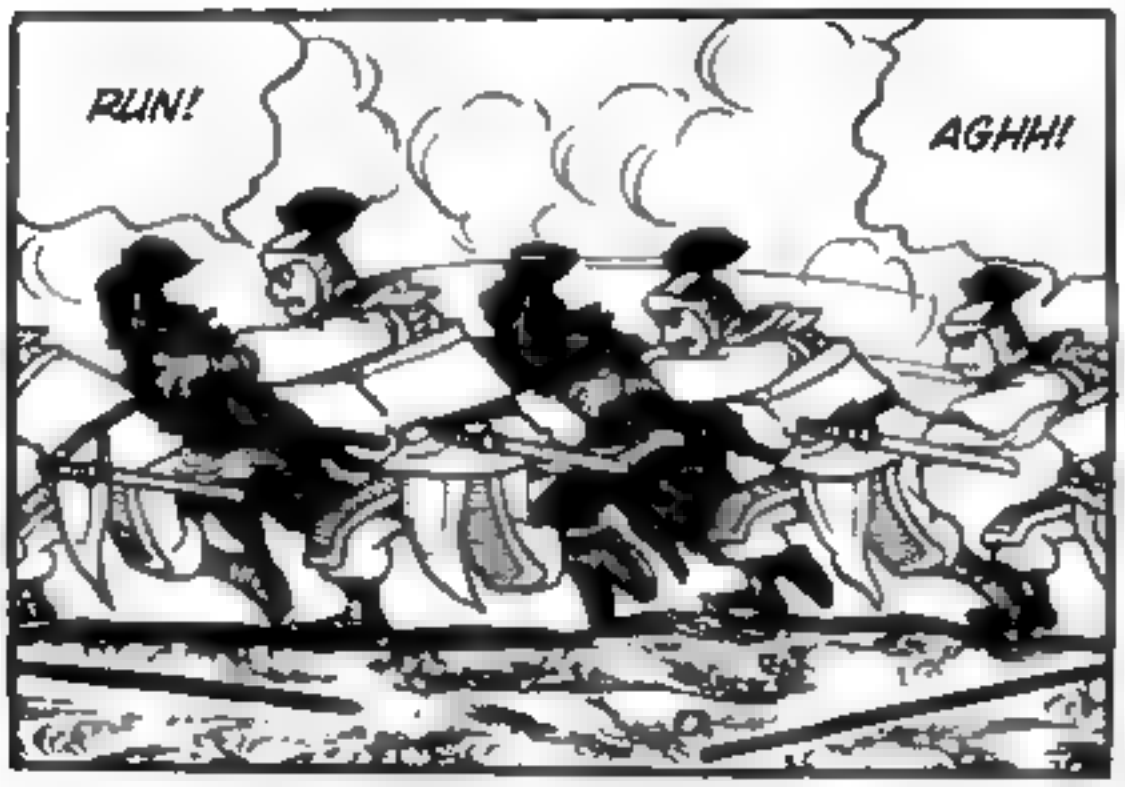

ATTACK!


HERE THEY COME.


WHOEVER YOU ARE, I, MA DAI, WILL MAKE SHORT WORK OF YOU!


WHAT!? AN ENEMY AMBUSH?


LET'S SWEEP AWAY THE REST!
GENERAL CHEN ZHAO!
陳
AHHH!


RUN!


AGHH!


W-WHAT!
SIR! VANGUARD LEADER CHEN ZHAO HAS BEEN SLAIN!



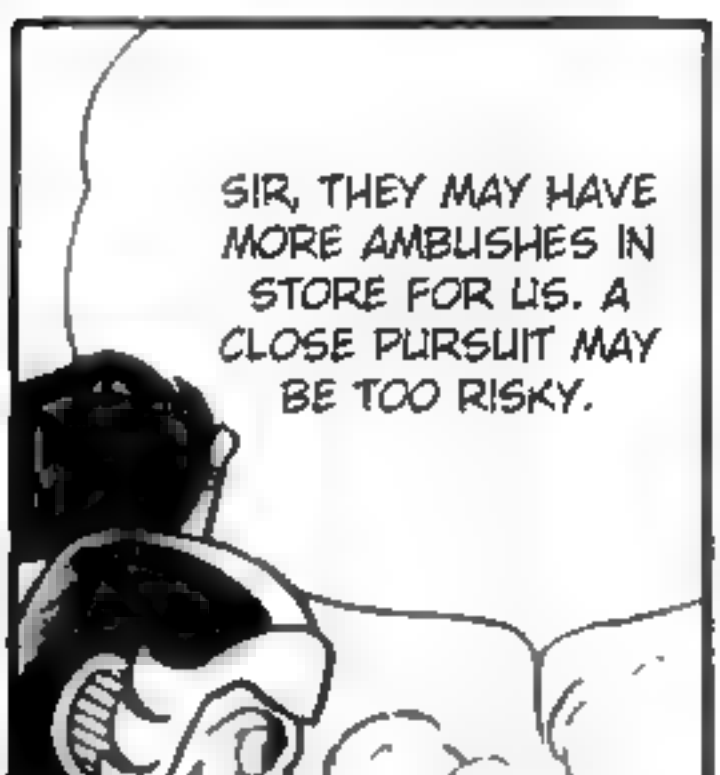

AHH!



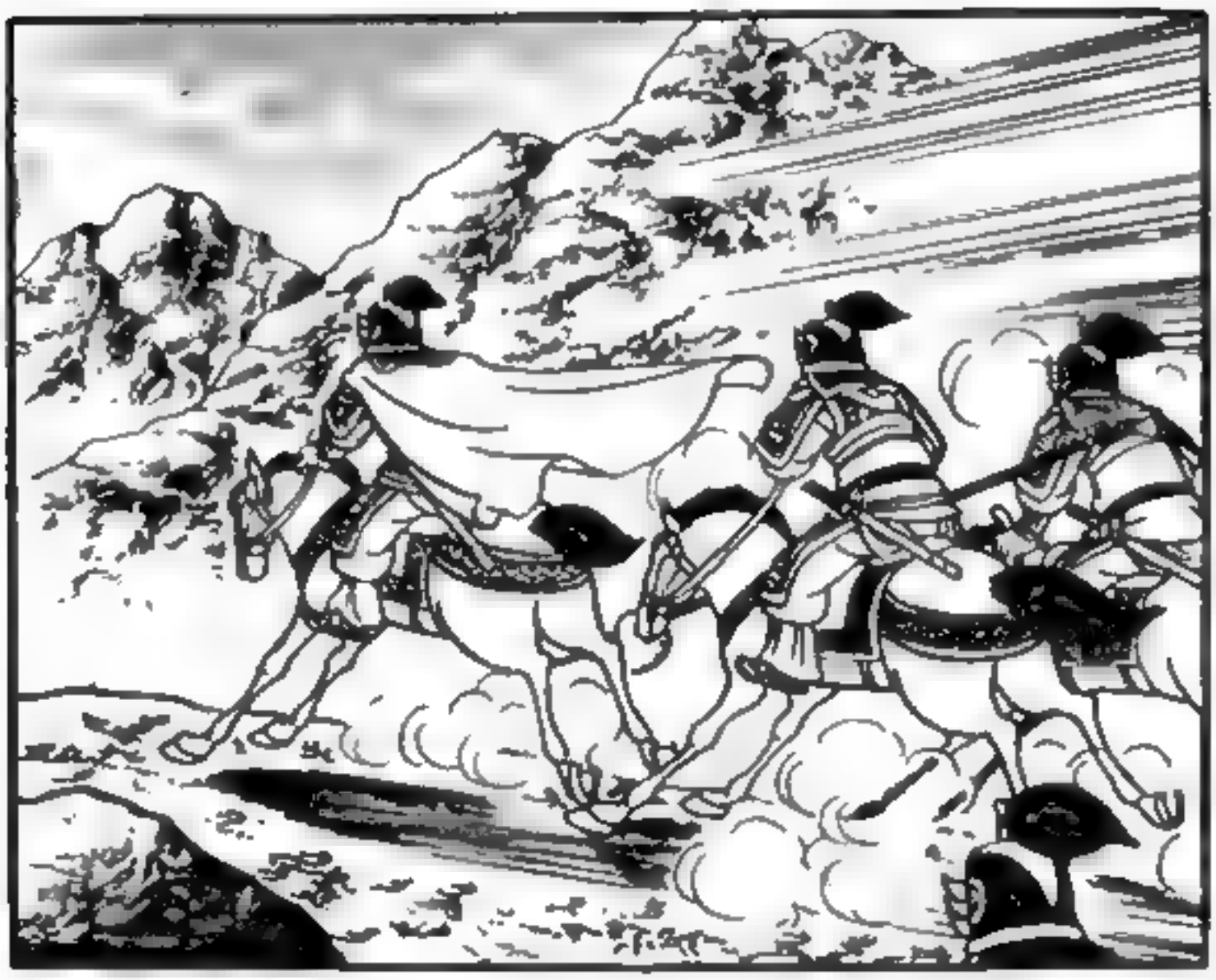

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CAO ZHEN! I, JIANG WEI, WILL DEAL WITH YOU!




SIR, THEY MAY HAVE MORE AMBUSHES IN STORE FOR US. A CLOSE PURSUIT MAY BE TOO RISKY.

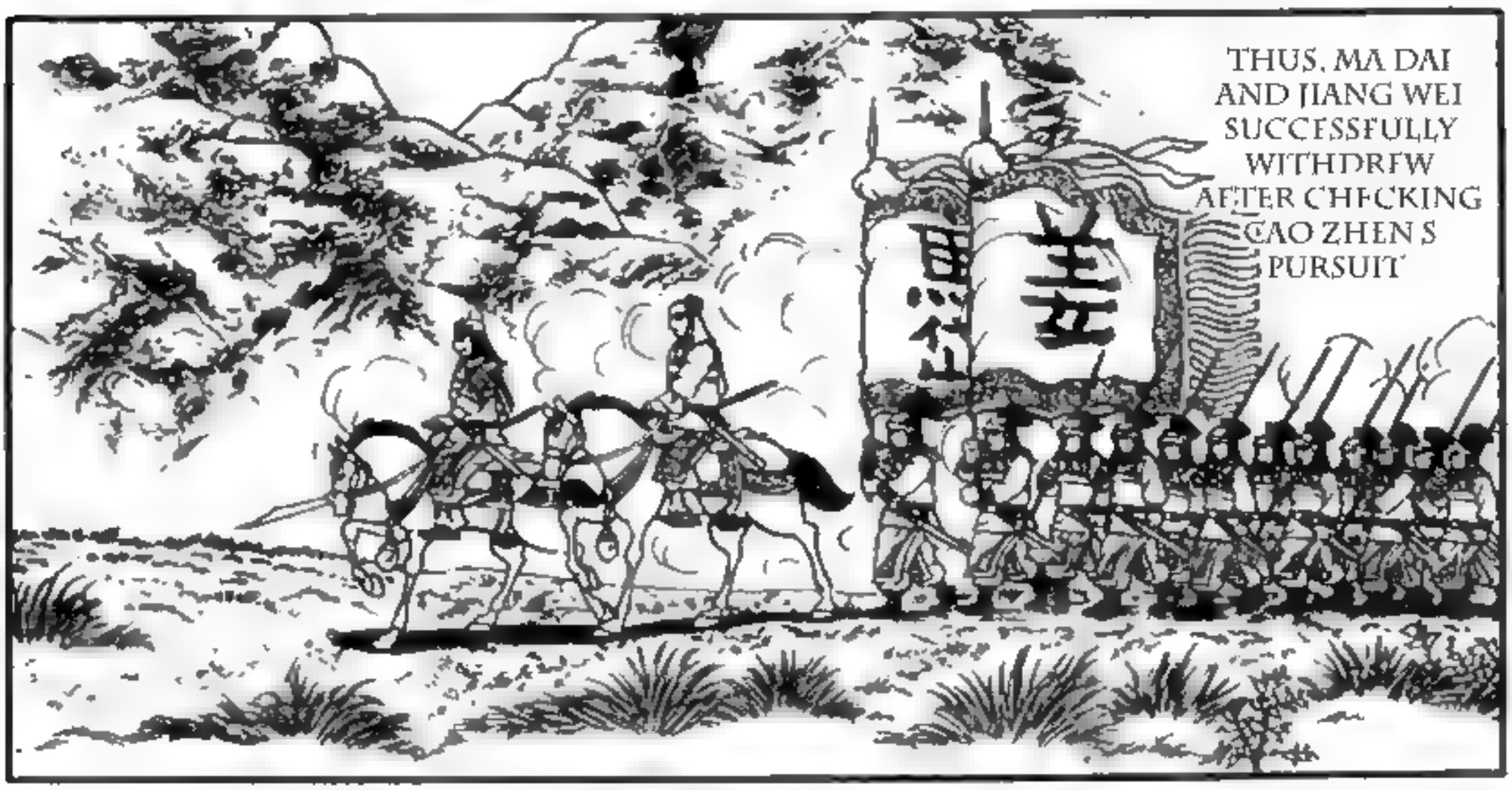





WITHDRAW!
WITHDRAW!


NOW IT'S TIME FOR US TO WITHDRAW!


HAHA. SEEMS LIKE THAT TAUGHT THEM TO ABANDON IDEAS OF AN EASY PURSUIT.


THUS, MA DAI AND JIANG WEI SUCCESSFULLY WITHDREW AFTER CHECKING CAO ZHEN'S PURSUIT


GU
GORGE
THE FORCES OF ZHAO ZILONG AND DENG ZHI WERE STILL LYING HERE IN AMBUSH TO CHECK OFF ANY ENEMY PURSUIT SO THE REST OF THE SHU FORCES COULD SAFELY WITHDRAW TO HANZHONG.
趙
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BUT IF WE BREAK CAMP AND WITHDRAW, THE ENEMIES MIGHT SEE THIS AS THEIR CHANCE AND ATTACK US IN FULL FORCE.

IS THAT SO?

DENG ZHI, IT SEEMS THE OTHERS HAVE ALL SAFELY MADE IT BACK TO HANZHONG. THE CHANCELLOR HAS JUST SENT US ORDERS TO WITHDRAW AS WELL.

YOU WISH TO TAKE ON THE DANGER OF THE REAR GUARD, SIR!?

I WANT YOU TO WITHDRAW FIRST, WHILE CARRYING FLAGS BEARING MY NAME. I WILL ACT AS THE REAR GUARD.

UNDER-STOOD, SIR.

YES, A SAFE WITHDRAWAL IS ONLY POSSIBLE IF I CAN GET THE ENEMIES TO BACK OFF FIRST WITH AN OFFENSIVE MANEUVER.

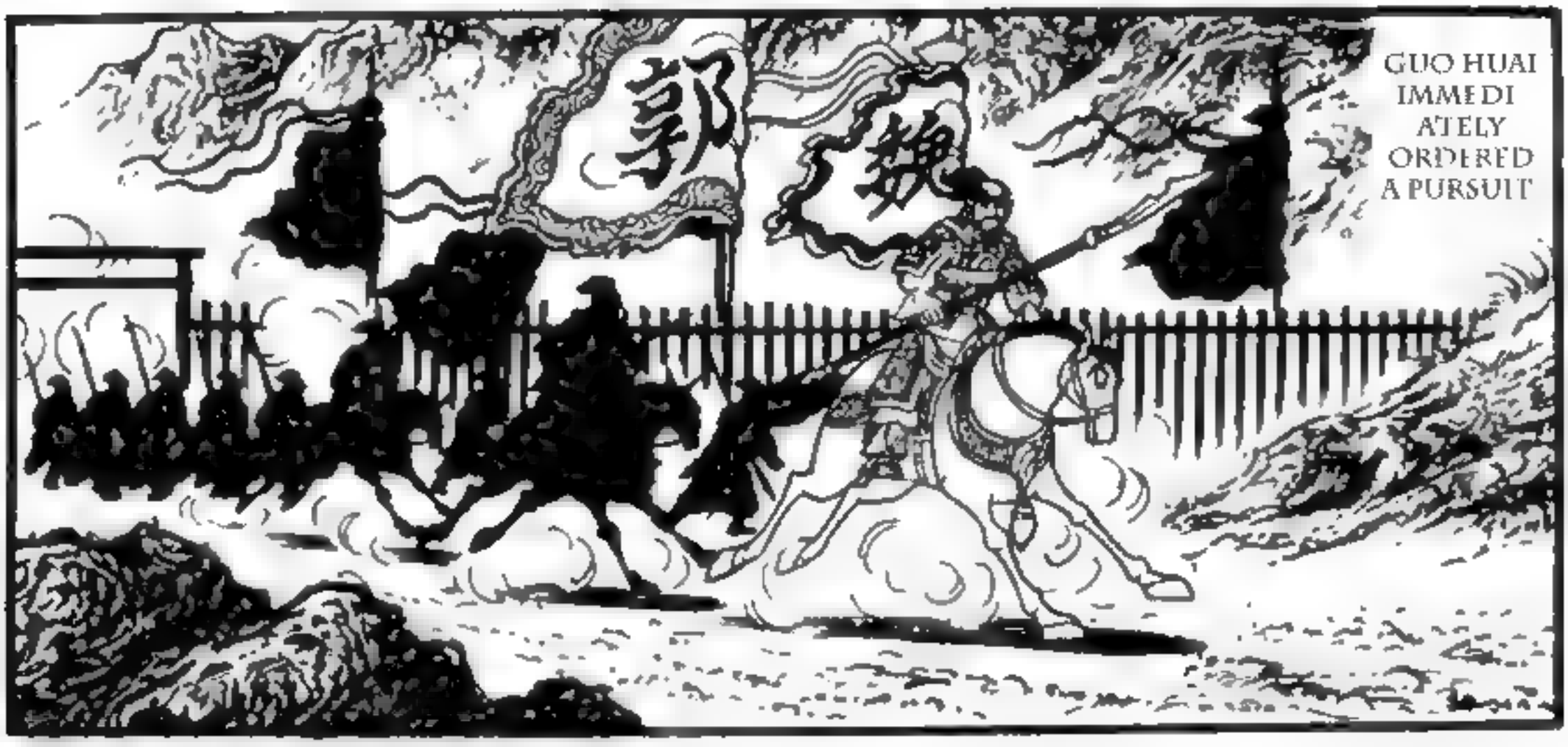
THUS, DENG ZHI WITHDREW FIRST, HIS TROOPS CARRYING ZHAO ZILONG'S FLAGS

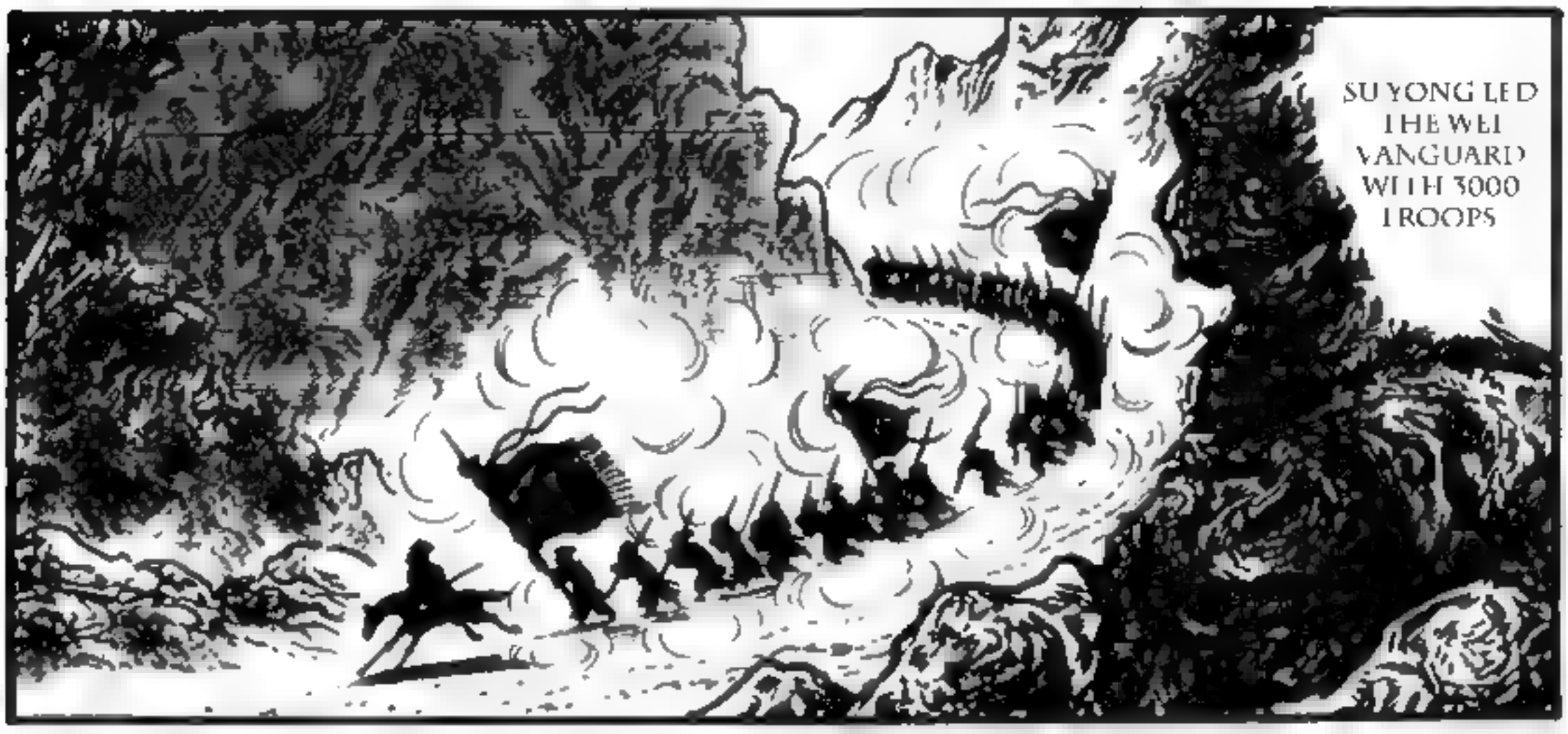
MEANWHILE, ZHAO ZILONG WAITED IN A NARROW VALLEY


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WE MUST PURSUE THEM AT ONCE! DON'T LET A SINGLE SHU SOLDIER RETURN TO HANZHONG ALIVE!


YOU SAW ZHAO ZILONG'S FORCES RETREATING!?


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GUO HUAI IMMEDIATELY ORDERED A PURSUIT


SU YONG LED
THE WEI
VANGUARD
WITH 3000
TROOPS

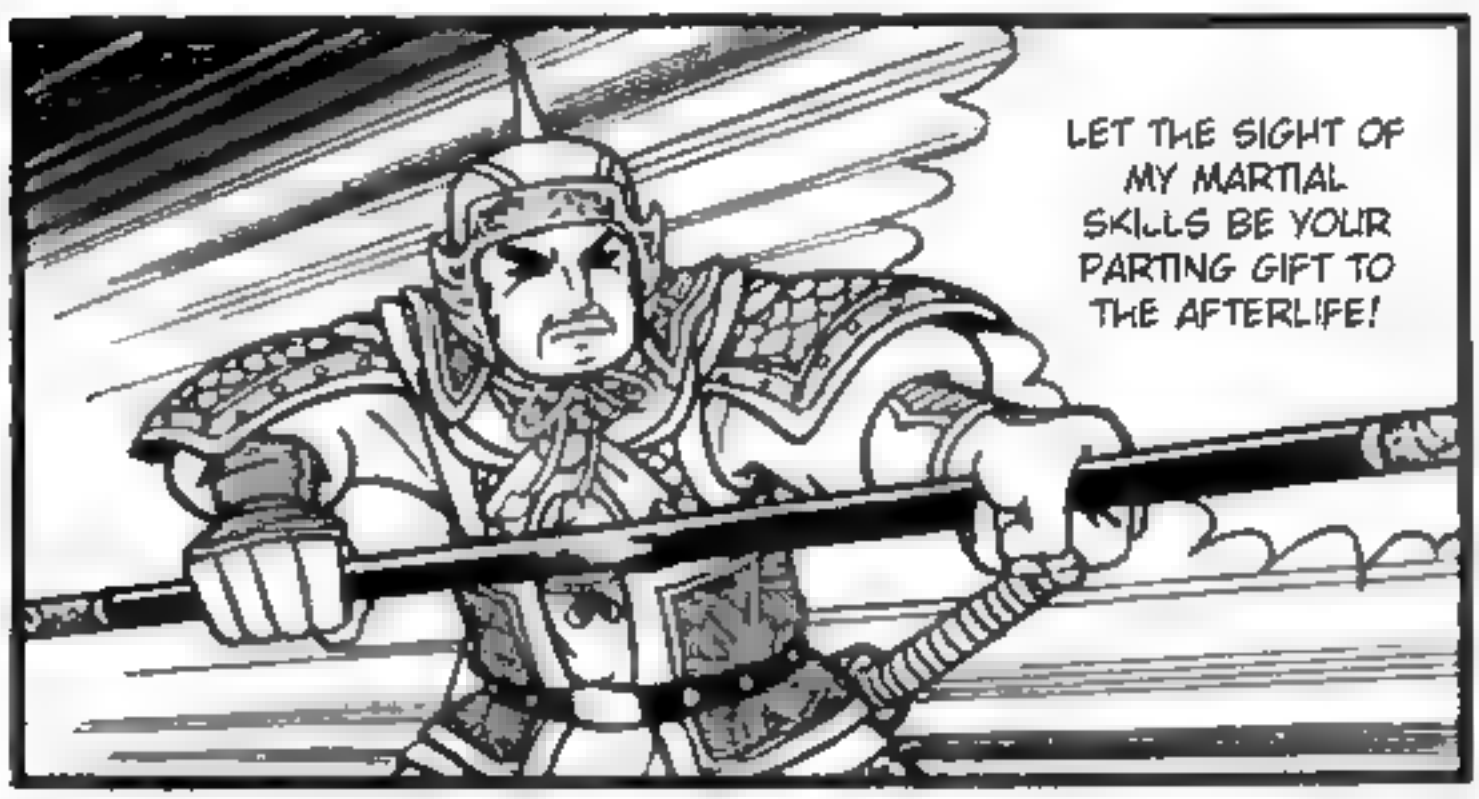

NOW!


HAHA, HERE
THEY COME...

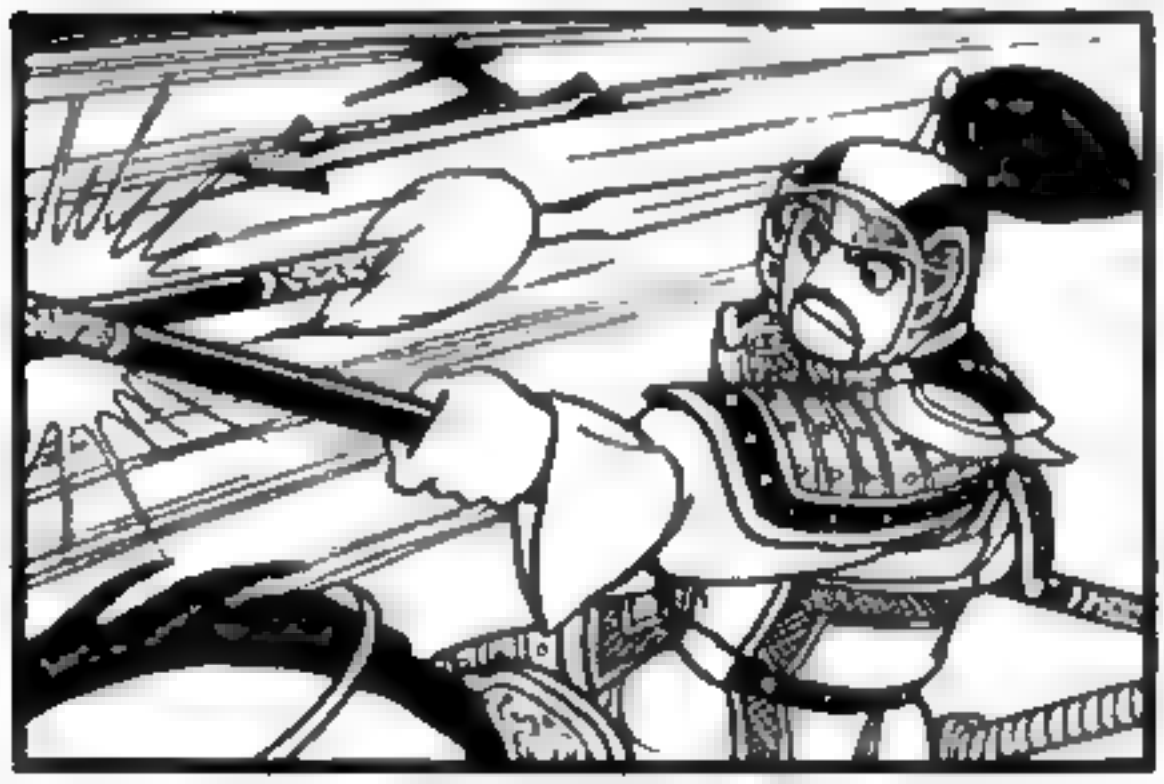

HM?

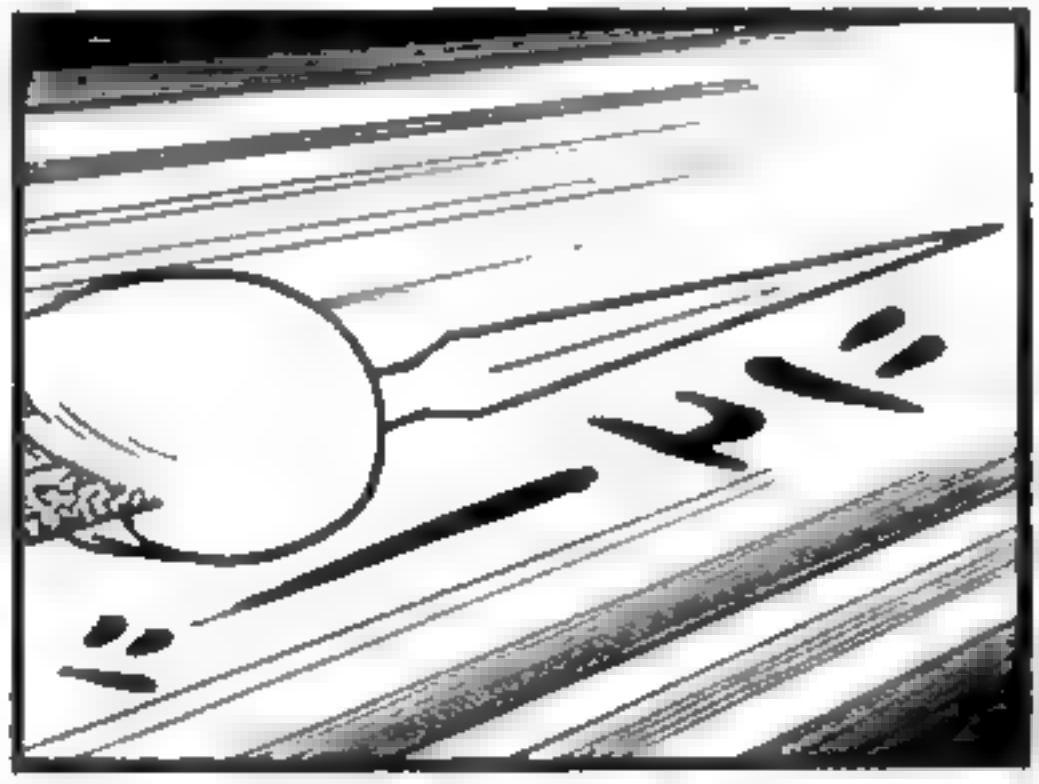

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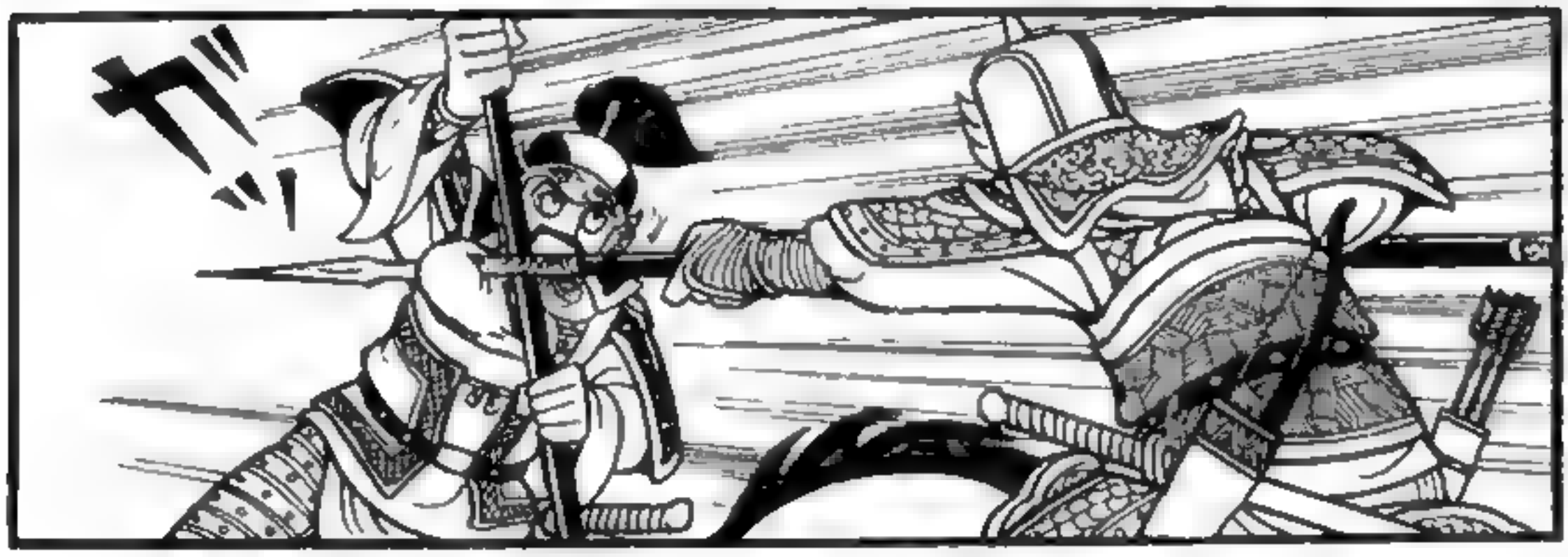

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ZHAO ZILONG WILL BE YOUR FOE TODAY!

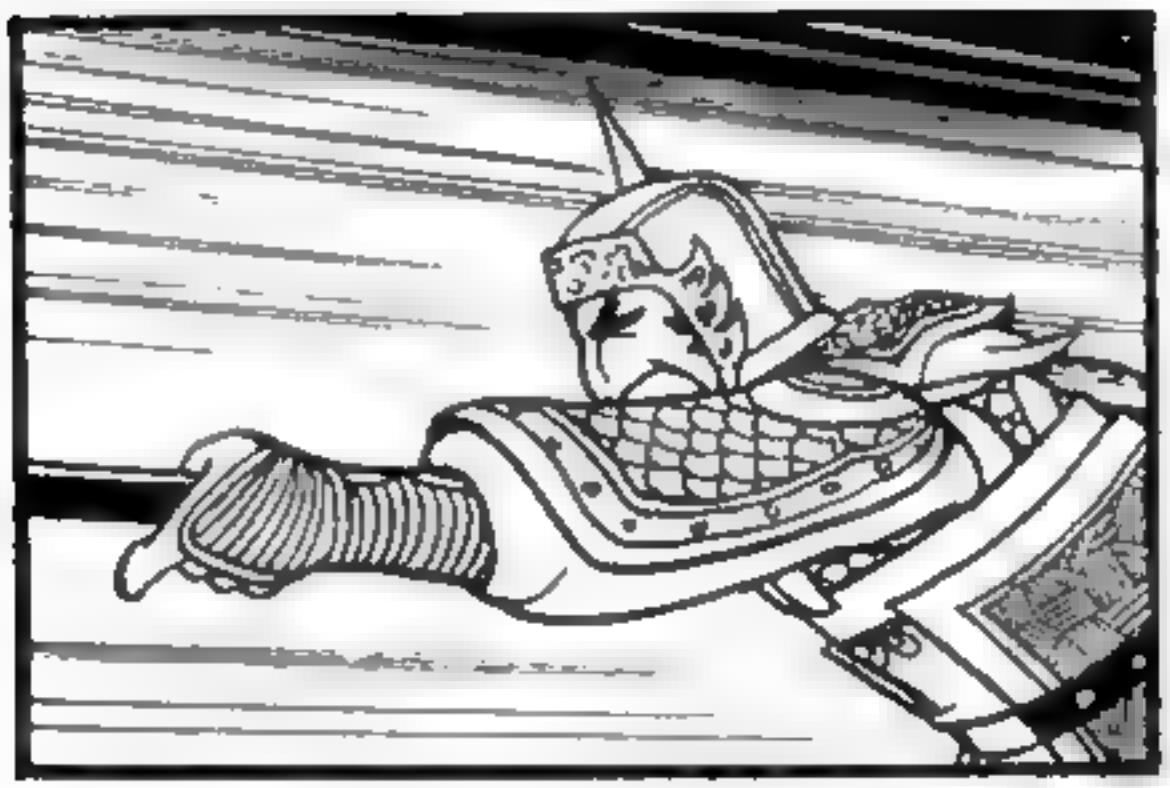

LET THE SIGHT OF MY MARTIAL SKILLS BE YOUR PARTING GIFT TO THE AFTERLIFE!


WHAT!? BUT THE SCOUTS SAID YOU WERE AT THE FRONT...!?














WHO'S NEXT!?


AGHH!

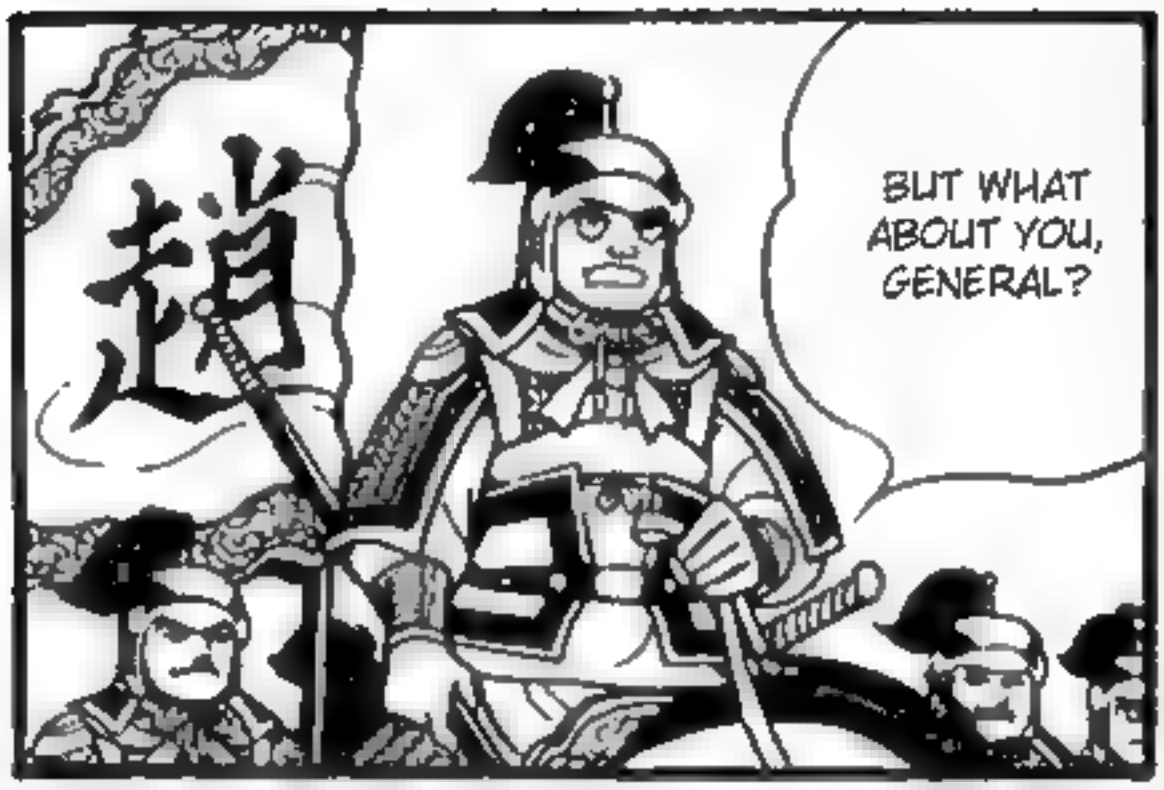

O-OUR GENERAL IS...


AHH!




GOOD, THEY'RE RUNNING.


HOWEVER, THE PURSUIT WAS NOT OVER YET SOON AFTER, THE WEI GENERAL WAN ZHENG WAS CLOSE ON ZHAO ZILONG'S HEELS


趙
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, GENERAL?

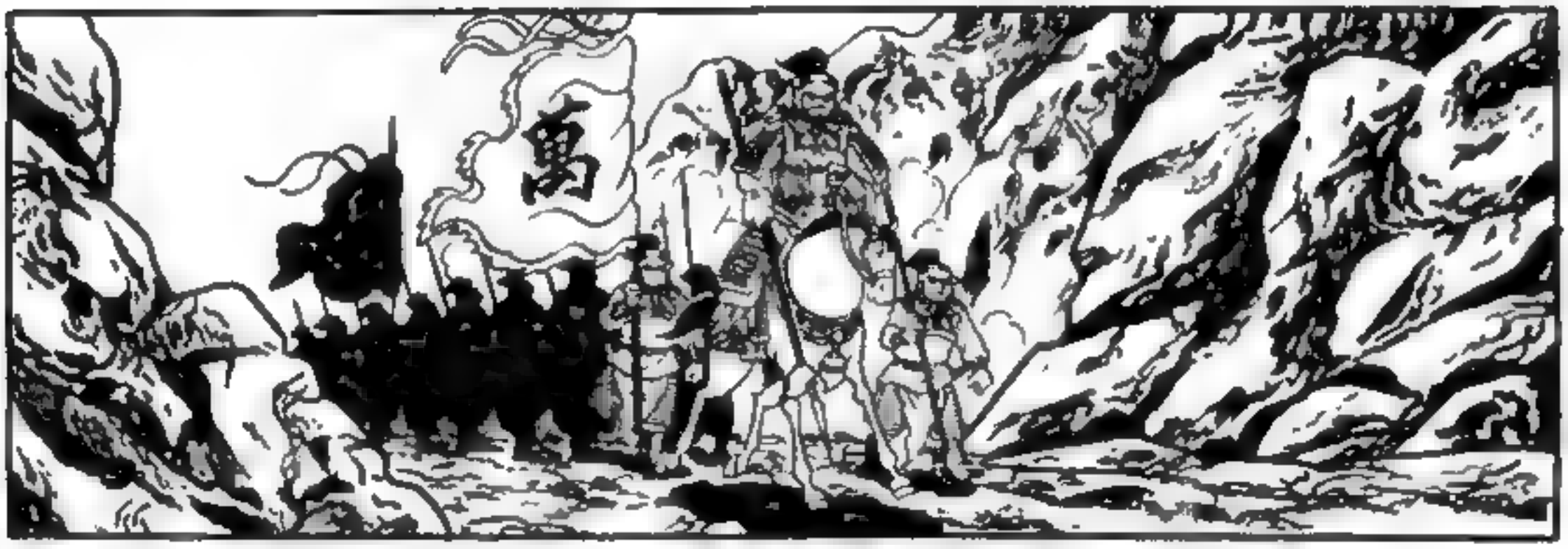

YOU MEN GO ON AHEAD.


NOW GO!


THIS PATH RIGHT HERE IS NARROW ENOUGH FOR ME TO DEFEND ALONE.


趙
Y-YES, SIR!




禹




HM!?


AHH!


H-HE'S ONLY ONE MAN! HAVE NO FEAR!


WHO WISHES TO FIGHT THE GREAT ZHAO ZILONG?

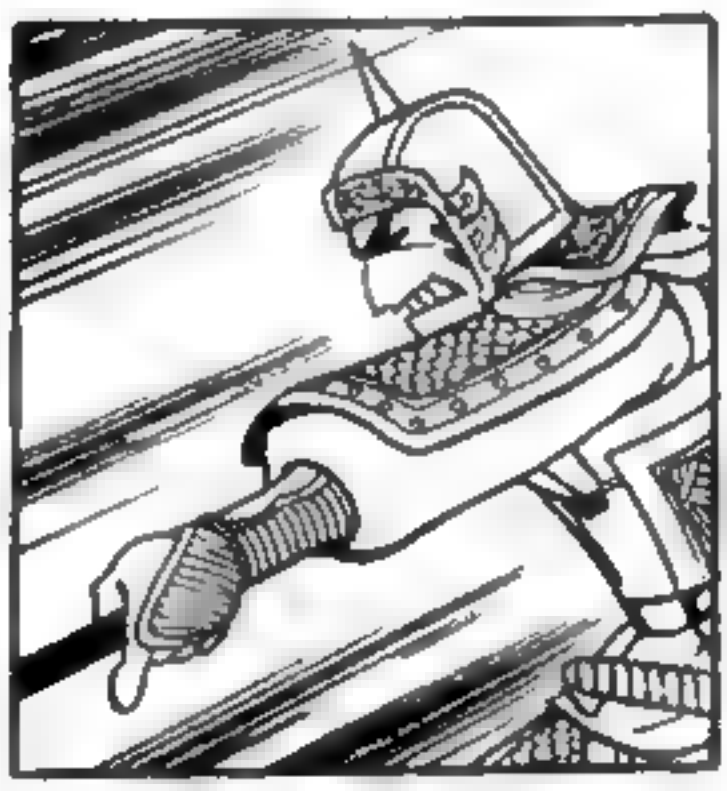


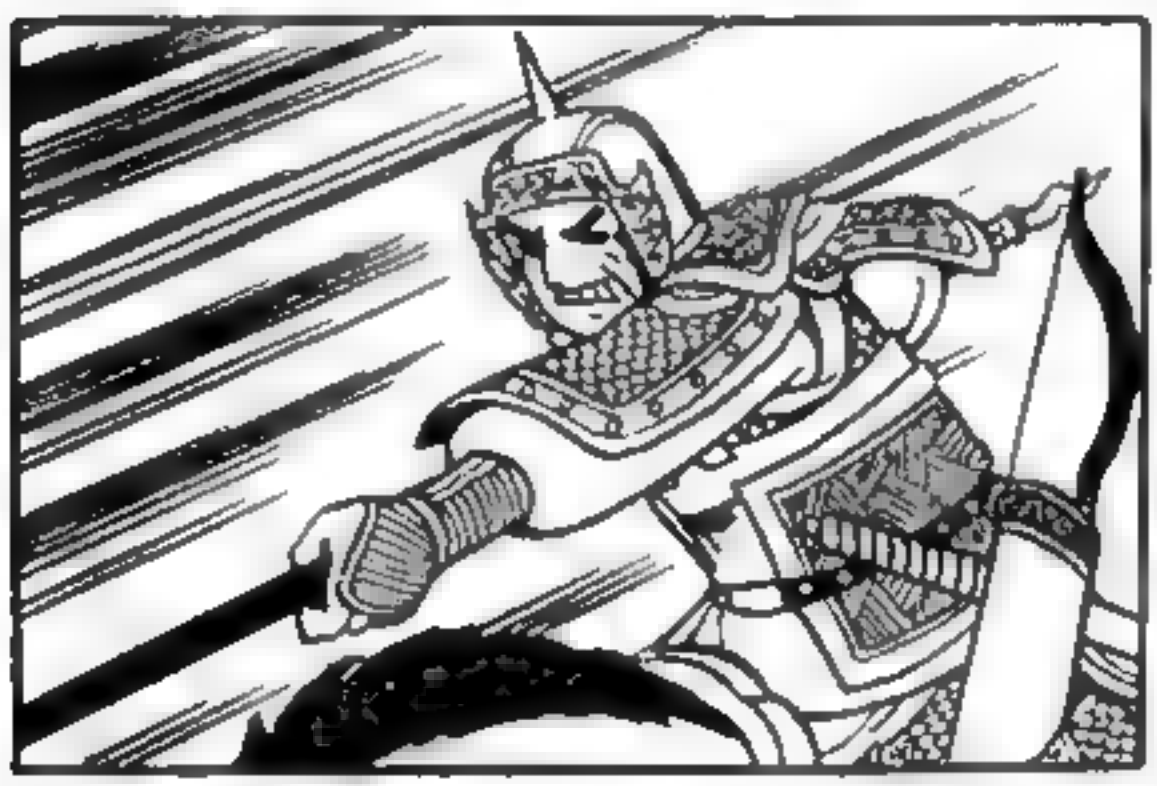







GAHH!






UGHH!

CURSES! ONLY A SINGLE MAN CAN FIGHT HIM AT ONE TIME OVER THERE...

W-WE CAN'T BEAT HIM, SIR!

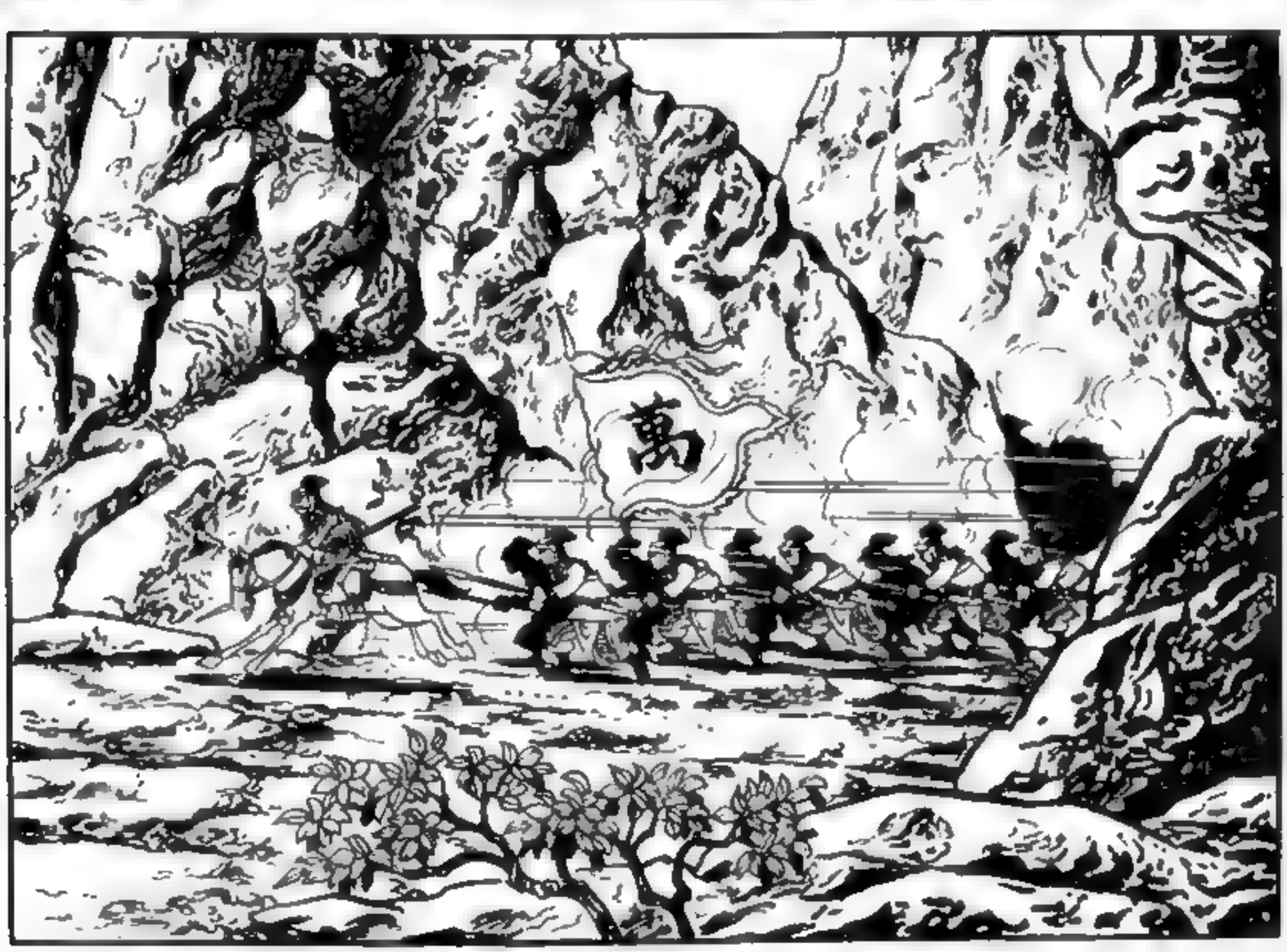
THEN I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE.

WHAT'S WRONG? NO MORE CHALLENG-ERS?


NOW! AFTER HIM!




Y-YES, SIR!



HMPH! BUNCH OF COCKROACHES, YOU ARE!

HM!? WHERE DID HE GO!?

WHY DON'T I SHOW YOU MY ARCHERY SKILLS THIS TIME?

AHH!

AHH!

AGHHH!

AGHH!

NOOO!

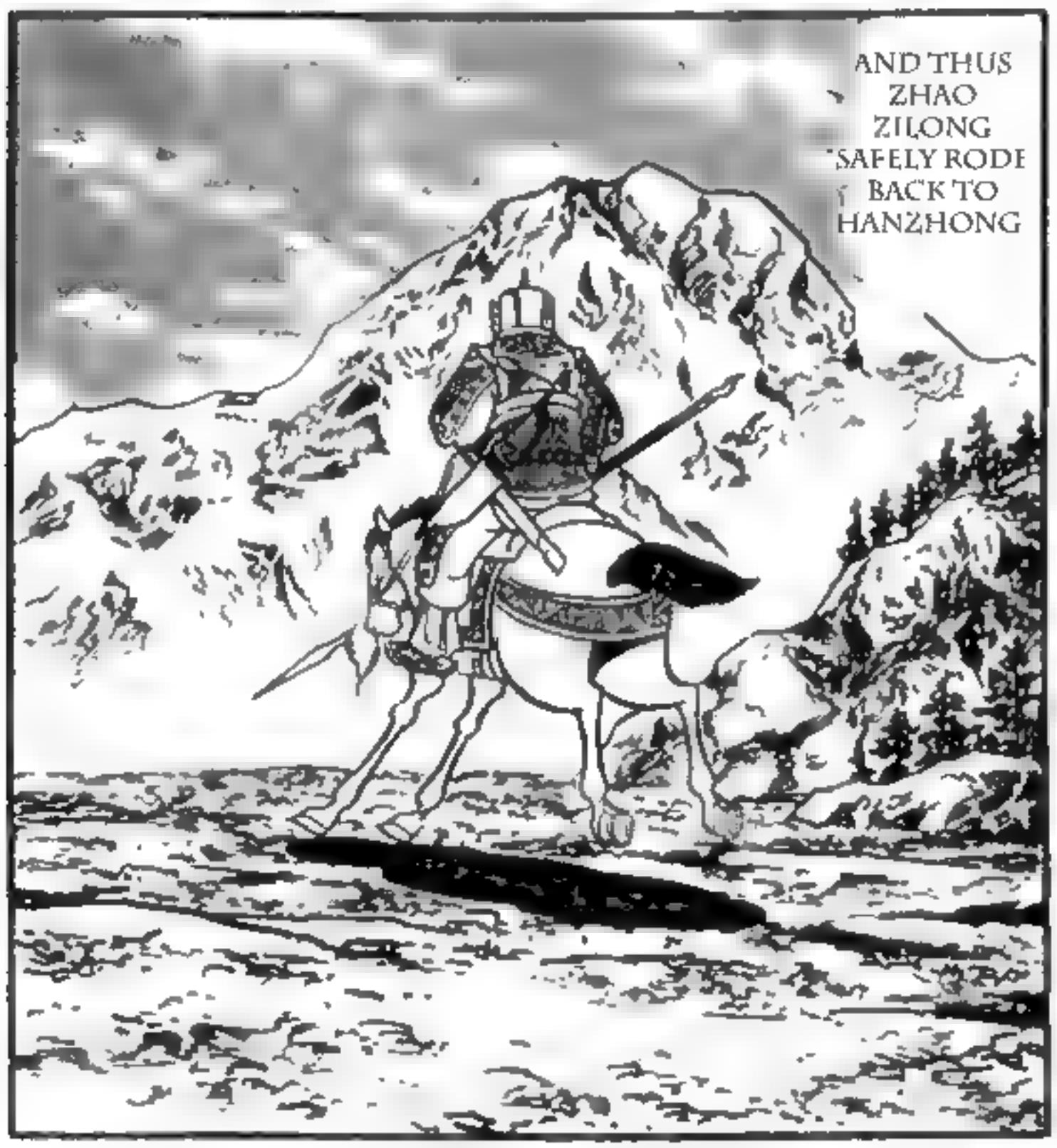
WHO'S NEXT?

萬



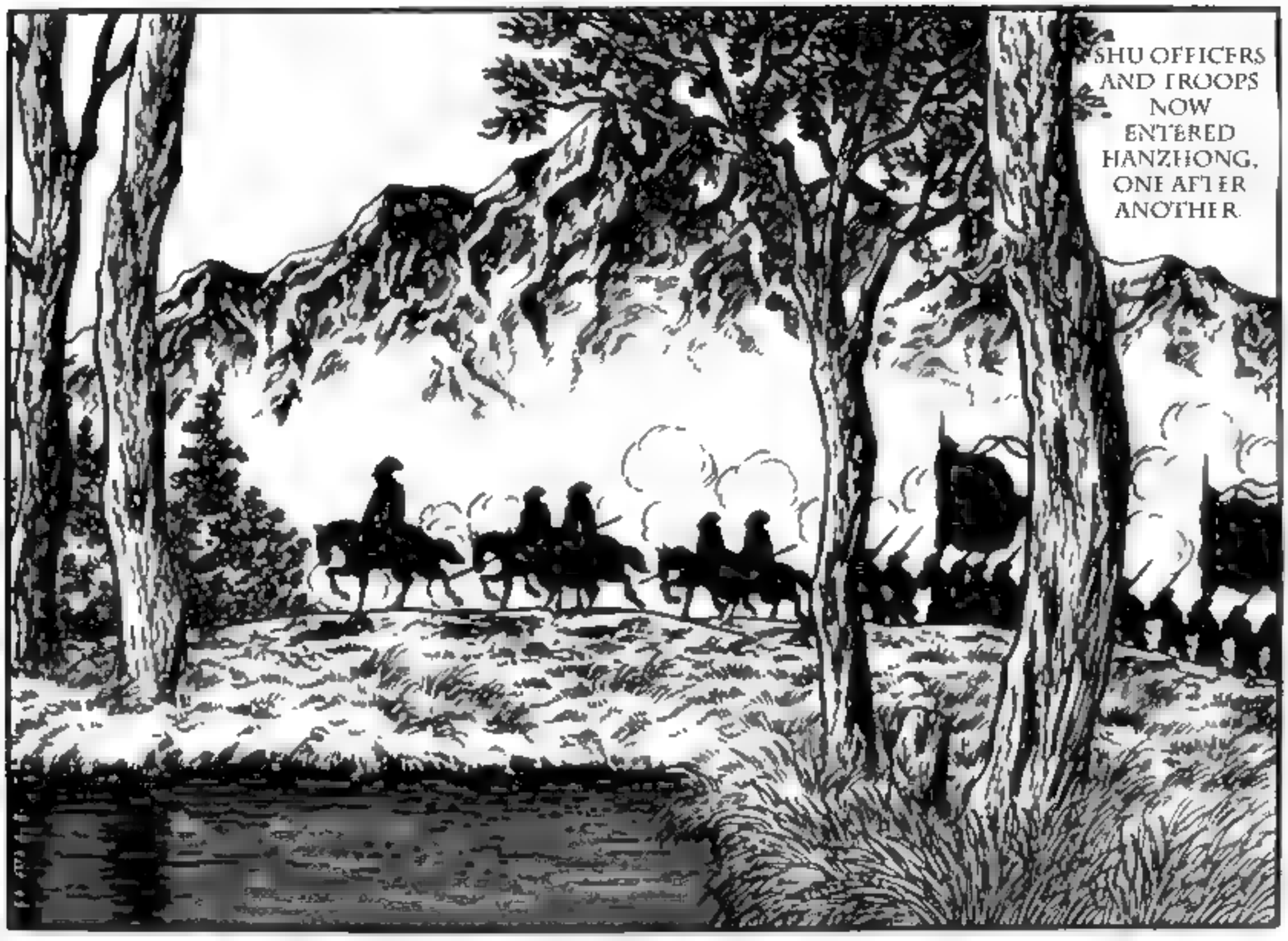


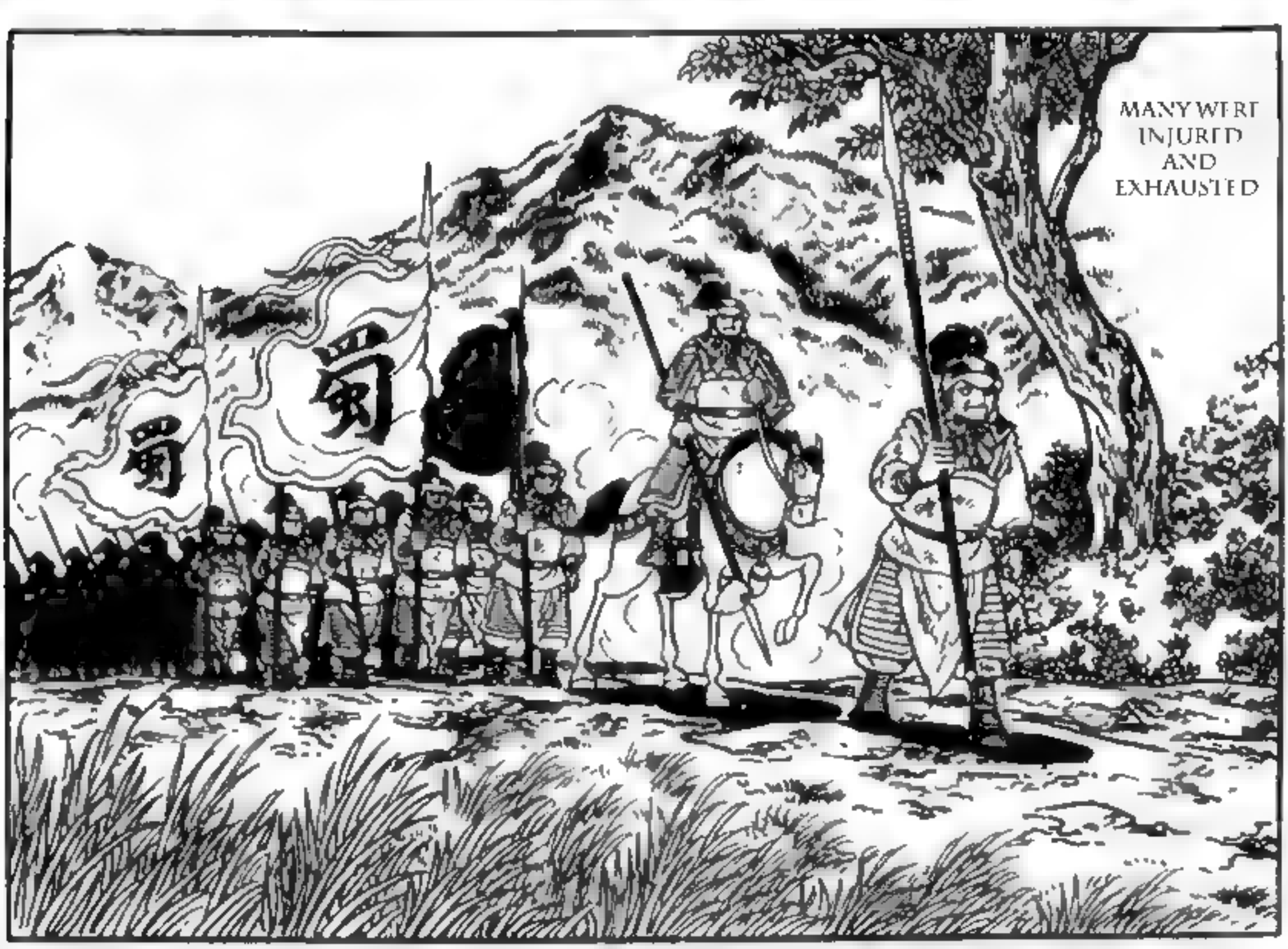

ACK!

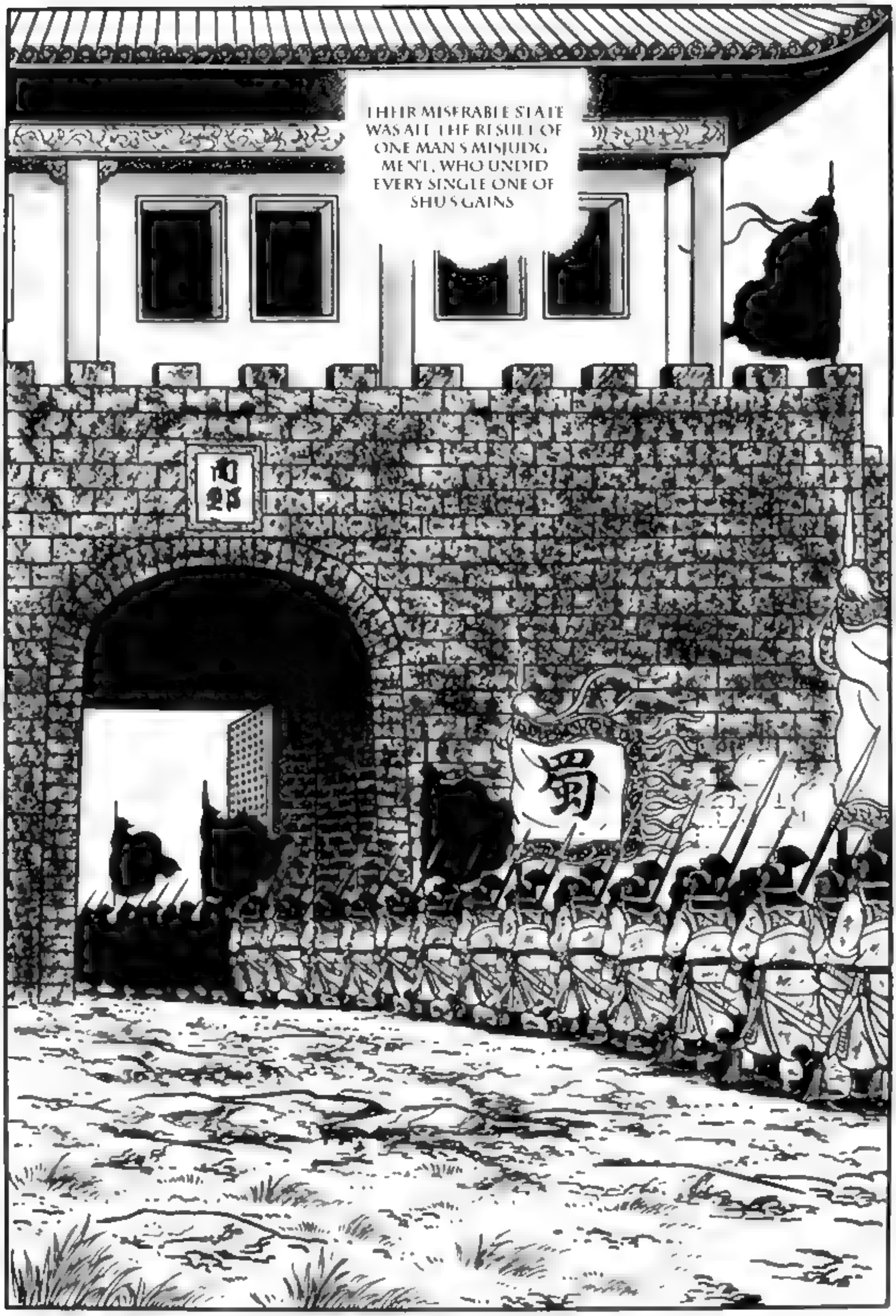

AND THUS ZHAO ZILONG SAFELY RODE BACK TO HANZHONG


I'LL SPARE YOUR PITIFUL LIFE SO TELL GUO HUAI TO BACK OFF IF HE'S KNOWS WHAT'S GOOD FOR HIM.

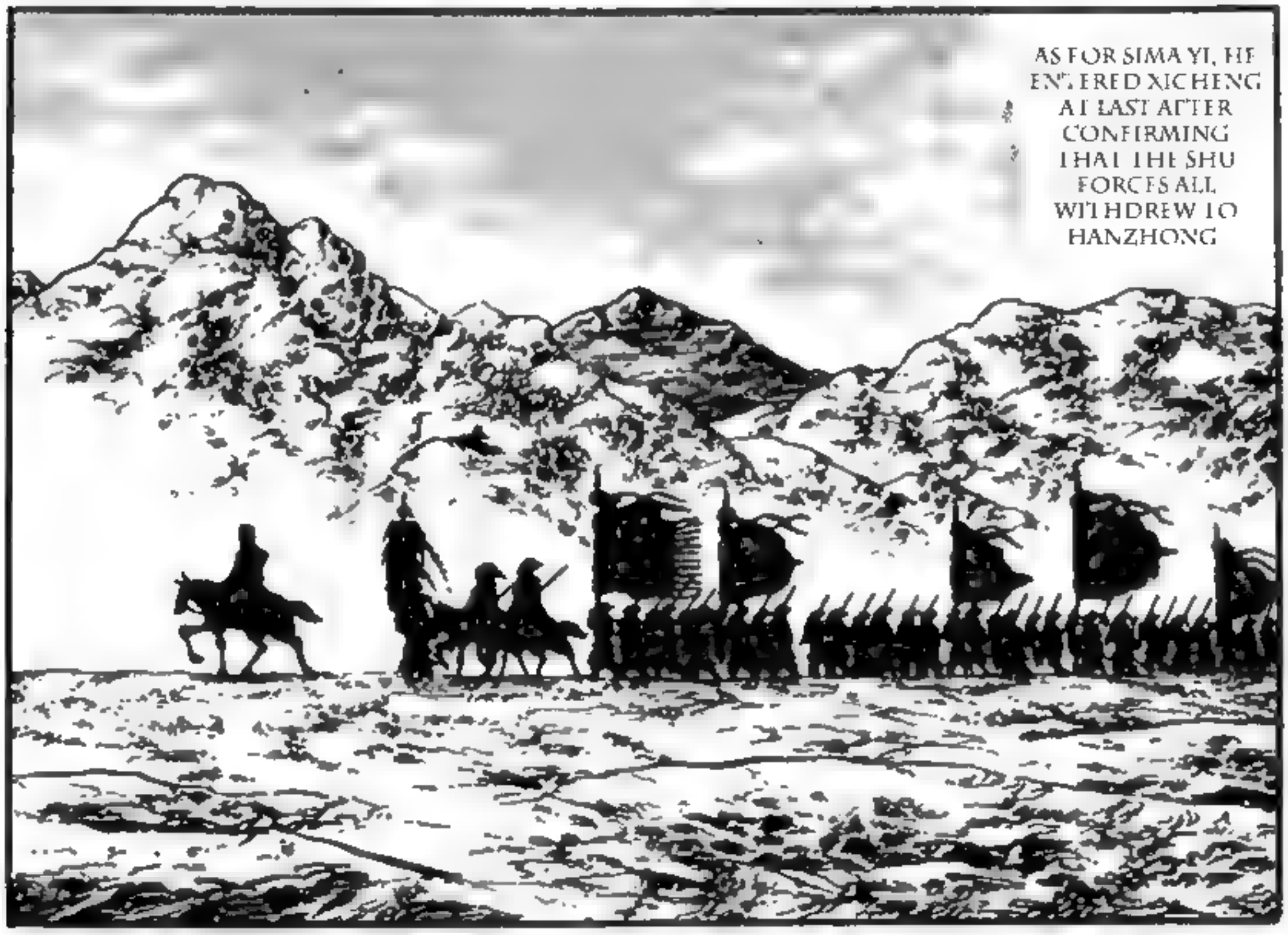

Y-YES, SIR...

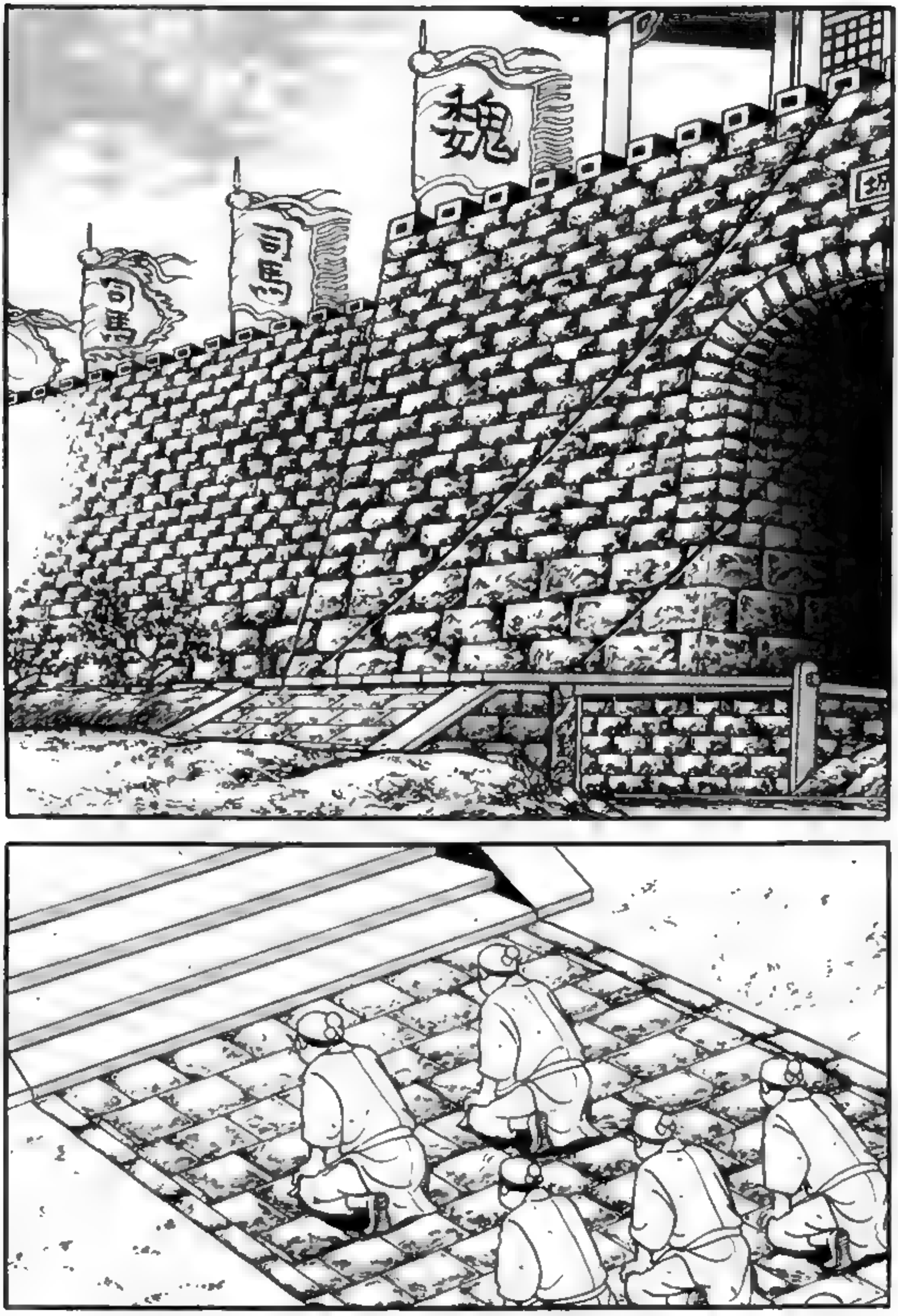

SHU OFFICERS AND TROOPS NOW ENTERED HANZHONG, ONE AFTER ANOTHER.


MANY WERE INJURED AND EXHAUSTED
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THEIR MISERABLE STATE WAS ALL THE RESULT OF ONE MAN'S MISJUDGMENT, WHO UNDID EVERY SINGLE ONE OF SHU'S GAINS
10 25
蜀


ALTHOUGH CAO ZHEN AND GUO HUAI GAVE UP THEIR PURSUIT OF THE SHU ARMY, THEY RECAPTURED TIANSHUI, NANAN, AND ANDING COMMANDERIES


AS FOR SIMA YI, HE ENTERED XICHENG AT LAST AFTER CONFIRMING THAT THE SHU FORCES ALL WITHDREW TO HANZHONG


魏
司馬

THANK YOU, RESIDENTS OF XICHENG, FOR STAYING LOYAL SUBJECTS OF WEI AND REFUSING TO MOVE TO HANZHONG WITH THE SHU ARMY. IT IS A PITY THAT NOT ALL RESIDENTS MADE THE SAME CHOICE AS YOU DID, FOR OUR ARMY MEANS NO HARM AND FIGHTS FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

I'M SURE THE OTHER VILLAGERS AND TOWNSMEN WILL BE PLEASED TO HEAR YOUR WORDS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR.

A STATE EXISTS FOR THE PEOPLE AND NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND. NONE OF YOU BEAR ANY FAULT FOR THE ONGOING TURMOIL WITHIN THE REALM SO YOU ARE FREE TO RETURN TO YOUR NORMAL LIVES NOW.

IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO ASK.

YES, PROTECTING THE LANDS OF ONE'S ANCESTORS IS A VERY IMPORTANT DUTY.

WE HAVE NO OTHER DESIRE THAN TO LIVE HERE AS OUR ANCESTORS DID LONG AGO.

WHEN MY ARMY ORIGINALLY APPROACHED HERE, ZHUGE LIANG OPENED THE CITY GATES AND PLAYED THE GUQIN BEFORE US. WHAT WAS THE CITY LIKE INSIDE AT THAT TIME?

AH, THERE IS ONE THING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU ALL.

WHAT IS IT, SIR?

THEN DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY SHU TROOPS HEADED TO WUGONG HILLS?

ONLY ABOUT 2500 TROOPS WERE INSIDE THEN. THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE NOTABLE.

THAT IS WHY WE WERE ALL CONFUSED AS TO WHY YOU AND YOUR ARMY WOULD SUDDENLY WITHDRAW IMMEDIATELY AFTER ARRIVING HERE.

THOSE MUST HAVE BEEN THE TROOPS OF GUAN XING AND ZHANG BAO. THEY ONLY TOOK AROUND 3000 SOLDIERS EACH AND I HEARD THEY HAD NO REAL INTENT TO FIGHT.

YOU MAY WITHDRAW TO YOUR HOMES. BE SURE TO TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY THAT THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN NOW.

I... I SEE... WE HAD OUR OWN COMPLICATED SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES TO DEAL WITH AT THAT TIME. IN ANY CASE, THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING MY QUESTIONS.

PLEASE EXCUSE US THEN.







TRANSLATED BY HOX

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三国志

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横山 光輝

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